

SEA TURTLES - NEW HEBRIDES

**G.H. BALAZS**  
**FILE**

# Vanuatu Claims Isles Belonging to France

By Ian Ward  
Daily Telegraph, London

PORT VILA, Vanuatu — Some embarrassing news awaited France today after a flat denial over the weekend of reports that the Vanuatu flag had been hoisted over the remote South Pacific islands of Hunter and Matthew, both claimed by France.

Already, emotional elements in the nearby French colony of New Caledonia are labeling the incident France's "Argentine du Pacifique."

What the French will certainly learn — if they haven't done so already — is that a party representing the Republic of Vanuatu did make a successful landing on one of the two barren volcanic islands last week.

Even more damaging to French pride — particularly in view of the weekend statement — will be the realization that the French navy turned up 24 hours late and literally missed the boat.

According to the French Defense Ministry: "The French patrol vessel, la Dunkerquoise, which is engaged in patrolling operations around these islands, located 300 nautical miles from New Caledonia, had noted the presence in neighbouring waters of the Vanuatu yacht Euphrasim.

"This boat, which has left the area did not show any intention of jeopardizing the integrity of the New Caledonia territory of which Hunter and Matthew Islands are an integral part.

BUT HAD THE Dunkerquoise been around 24 hours earlier it would have spotted the Vanuatu landing party, led by the country's southern district commissioner, Jo Joseph, going ashore on Hunter Island.

Among the party who made the landing were a number of customs chiefs from the three main southern islands in the Vanuatu chain — Tanna, Fortuna and Aneityum.

The customs chiefs, social and cultural leaders of their respective areas, insist that island folklore tells of the link of ancient Vanuatu people to Hunter and Matthew Islands, which are uninhabited, smoldering volcanic cones protruding from the Pacific 80 miles from Aneityum.

After a flagpole had been fixed firmly in concrete on Hunter Island, the custom chiefs began a series of ceremonial dances and placed baskets, yams and special stones brought from Aneityum on the ground nearby — offerings symbolizing the unbreakable ties between the islands and the Vanuatu people.

With the raising of the national emblem depicting a circular boar's tusk, the landing party sang in pidgin English the national anthem, "Yumi Brother Every One."

That night, the volcano on Hunter erupted but the party had withdrawn to the safety of its vessel, formerly the British resident commissioner's yacht.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL Thursday that the Vanuatu vessel, Euphroine, while circumnavigating nearby Matthew Island, encountered the French minesweeper Dunkerquoise.

The French warship maneuvered close to a yacht and the two crews eyeballed one another across a narrow expanse of water.

Deciding that discretion was the better part of valor and having made its point, the Vanuatu vessel turned for home without even an exchange of signals with the minesweeper.



# Vanuatu to Ban Last French Commissioner

By Ian Ward

London Daily Telegraph

PORT VILA, Vanuatu — Diplomatic sources say the government will announce within the next 48 hours that the last French resident commissioner in the islands, Jean-Jacques Robert, will be banned from ever returning to the newly independent South Pacific republic formerly known as New Hebrides.

Prime Minister Walter Lini's decision to declare Robert persona non grata and lodge a formal protest with the French government over his actions comes as a French diplomatic team is attempting to conclude aid negotiations with authorities here.

Sources close to the government say the French aid officials are taking a tough stand in negotiations, demanding concessions for French expatriate residents in return for a greater amount of aid.

Robert, who together with his British opposite number, Andrew Stuart, represented colonial authority during the final phase of condominium rule in the New Hebrides, left for Paris immediately after independence was granted to the islands on July 31.

EVIDENCE OF Robert's complicity with rebel leader Jimmy Stevens during the "coconut rebellion" on Espiritu Santo island earlier this year became the subject of comments by Vanuatu's Chief Justice Frederick Cooke when he sentenced Stevens to 14½ years in jail.

The evidence given at the trial last

week suggests not only that Robert set out to hoodwink his British colleague during the final weeks of condominium control, but that the deception was at least condoned, if not actually engineered, at the highest level of the colonial office in Paris.

Chief Justice Cooke said at the conclusion of the trial that Robert encouraged Stevens in his rebellion by conveying the idea that all would be well if he succeeded in wresting Espiritu Santo away from Vanuatu and that there would be no reprisals from the Vanuatu government.

# Vanuatu Rebel Leader Seized

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — Officials here said their troops raided a rebel stronghold in the neighboring South Pacific island chain of Vanuatu yesterday and seized Jimmy Stevens, the man who has led a bow-and-arrow revolt there.

The Papua New Guinea Defense Ministry said combat troops captured the rebel leader, three Frenchmen and caches of weapons and explosives in the raid on the island of Espiritu Santo, part of the newly independent Vanuatu archipelago.

Officials said one Papua New Guinea soldier and a Vanuatu policeman were injured in the raid, which was conducted at the request of the Vanuatu government.

Police in Port Vila, the Vanuatu capital about 180 miles north of Espiritu Santo, confirmed the raid.

Vanuatu was the New Hebrides until its independence from combined French and British rule on July 31. About two weeks later, Papua New Guinea troops replaced departing French and British sol-

diers flown in earlier to put down Stevens' rebellion.

IN LATE MAY, Stevens and hundreds of supporters armed with bows and arrows seized Espiritu Santo and declared it independent of the rest of the chain. Colonial officials charged the revolt was financed by a group of American businessmen who hoped to set up an island tax haven. The businessmen denied the accusation.

French and British commandos retook the island without a battle, but Stevens tried to regroup after they left.

Vanuatu Prime Minister Walter Lini, visiting Brisbane, Australia, announced yesterday that Stevens would be tried for rebellion and could be exiled or sent to prison.

He said negotiations were under way with neighboring countries to determine if any were prepared to grant Stevens asylum.

Over the past two weeks, Stevens repeatedly refused to surrender. His 24-year-old son, Eddie Stevens, was killed Friday by Papua New Guinea soldiers after he fired a machine gun in their direction, Vanuatu officials said.

## Vanuatu Rebel Says He Will Surrender

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (AP) — Jimmy Stevens, the separatist rebel leader of the South Pacific island of Espiritu Santo, told Vanuatu government officials today he will surrender tomorrow and end the rebellion, a government spokesman said.

Espiritu Santo is the largest of the 72 islands in the Vanuatu archipelago, formerly known as the New Hebrides, 1,000 miles off northwest Australia. The island chain gained its independence from joint British-French rule last month.

Stevens met with the officials in Luganville, the capital of Espiritu Santo, to arrange terms of the surrender, government spokesman John Beasant said today. Stevens and his lieutenants then left to inform their followers of the decision, Beasant said.

Beasant earlier in the day reported that rebels had burned down a coconut processing plant and military action was imminent against the rebel stronghold of Vanafo.

BUT AFTER THE meeting Beasant said there would be no military action "as long as the surrender is carried out in an orderly manner."

Espiritu Santo was taken over in May by Melanesians armed with bows and arrows and led by Stevens. The rebels, backed by French-speaking residents, demanded autonomy for their island and defied the Vanuatu government at Port Vila, capital of the new nation.

Beasant said Stevens gave no indication that he or his followers feared the Papua New Guinea troops who replaced British and French forces as a peacekeeping unit on Espiritu Santo.

A-4 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Thursday, August 28, 1980



# Calm Returns to New Hebrides

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — The situation in the New Hebrides was reported calm yesterday two weeks after political violence broke out between rival factions over independence for the British-French administered South Pacific colony.

French mobile police sent into the capital of Vila, 2,000 kilometers northeast of Sydney, following the

## Related Story on F-2

violence were returned to Noumea, New Caledonia, last weekend, diplomatic sources in Vila reported by telephone.

The sources said there has been no major trouble since Nov. 29, when police used tear gas to break up 500 demonstrators who protested the plans of a political group to declare a provisional government.

THE VAUAAKU party had boycotted the elections for a representative assembly scheduled Nov. 29 after the French and British administrators of the condominium rejected de-

mands for a Vanuaku party-controlled coalition government followed by a referendum on immediate independence.

"In town, life is perfectly normal again," said Jeff Stephens, a British diplomat interviewed by telephone from Sydney. "There are some occasional incidents on the outlying islands between rival factions but police have been sent to sort out the troubles."

THE DIPLOMAT said the Vanuaku party had raised its flag in several parts of the island but had taken it down in areas where its display might lead to renewed political violence. The party's declaration has not affected the colonial administration of the island, the diplomat said.

Unopposed candidates from other moderate factions were declared unanimously elected to the 39-member assembly, which held its first session last week.

The first chief minister of the assembly, former Police Constable George Kaltol Kaisakau, has been forming a cabinet and said he was ready to offer the Vanuaku party a position should it want one.

# French Police Withdrawn in New Hebrides

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (UPI) — French riot police sent to Port Vila left the troubled Anglo-French colony today, only one day after arriving, in what appeared to be a dispute between France and Britain.

The return of the gendarmes to their base on the French island of New Caledonia appeared to be part of a dispute between London and Paris over handling secessionist movements and tribal uprisings in the colony.

A spokesman for the French Resident (governor) said the riot police were ordered to leave because there was no need for a paramilitary force in the capital.

Despite rising tensions caused by the death of an opposition legislator in a riot on the island of Tanna, the gendarmes were understood to have been ordered to leave by French Overseas Territories Minister Paul Dijou.

The British Resident, Andrew Stuart, and Chief Minister Walter Lini had asked France to keep the 55 men in Port Vila because of fears of more violence.

A company of about 200 British Marines is scheduled to arrive in Port Vila Saturday night or Sunday from Britain.

A dozen British-trained riot police yesterday repulsed an attack by about 200 men who were trying to take over the government compound on Tanna, 100 miles from the capital.

Honolulu Star-Bulletin Thursday, June 12, 1980



# New Guinea Gls Land on Espiritu Santo

LUGANVILLE, Espiritu Santo (AP) — Two hundred Papua New Guinea troops with full battle gear landed on this rebellious South Pacific island today to take over peacekeeping duties from a force of 200 British commandos and French paratroopers.

As the force landed, a rebel radio broadcast threatened civil war and said the streets would run with blood if foreign troops did not leave the island, the largest of the 72 New Hebrides.

The British and French troops left two hours after the arrival of the Papua New Guineans.

French military planes evacuated 56 French residents, most of them women and children, to New Caledonia yesterday in anticipation of clashes between the rebels and the New Guinean soldiers. A French navy landing craft completed the loading of personal belongings of French residents of the island today.

FRANCE AND Britain governed the New Hebrides jointly for 74 years. In May, two months before the archipelago was to get independence under a government dominated by English-speaking residents, a Melanesian tribal chief and former bulldozer driver named Jimmy Stevens led a bow-and-arrow rebellion on Espiritu Santo by French and part-French settlers and native bushmen.

A-4 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Monday, August 18, 1980

Monday, June 9, 1980 Honolulu Star-Bulletin A-3

# New Hebrides Rebels Agree to Talks

ESPIRITU SANTO, New Hebrides (UPI) — Rebel forces agreed today to a summit meeting in Paris to settle their secessionist revolt, but refused to return this South Pacific island to colonial officials before the conference.

The partial breakthrough to end the 13-day revolt came in three hours of negotiations between rebel plantation owner Jimmy Stevens and Inspector General Jacques Robert, the top French official in the New Hebrides, ruled jointly by Britain and France.

Stevens agreed to meet in a four-part conference that would include France, Britain, the New Hebrides government and himself as repre-

sentative of his new Espiritu Santo government called Vemerana.

But the white-bearded leader said he would not accept a symbolic return of the rebel-held island as a precondition.

Stevens said the communications and economic blockade clamped on the island first must be lifted by the Anglo-French authorities who rule the New Hebrides.

ROBERT, HOWEVER, warned Stevens he would "have to face up to the fact of military intervention if he continued to multiply the obstacles in the way of negotiations."

Without setting a deadline, Robert said a military venture would be a

joint operation between French and British forces, indicating France has backed down from its stand not to use force to resolve the takeover.

At a hastily called meeting of French residents, Robert said France would not support a secession and French military forces would evacuate them if necessary.

Stevens also said his followers have decided to hold a referendum July 20 to decide whether the island is to remain part of the New Hebrides.

The French resident commissioner flew to Espiritu Santo, the richest and largest island in the New Hebrides chain, to meet with Stevens, who declared independence May 28

after seizing it with a group of French-speaking plantation owners and an army of natives.

The government of Chief Minister Walter Lini, due to lead the New Hebrides to independence from France and Britain July 30, had blockaded Espiritu Santo in an effort to force Stevens and his 200 followers to give in.

TRANSPORT Minister John Naupa refused to sign papers authorizing Robert's flight and, after waiting one hour to see if Lini or another cabinet minister would accept an invitation to accompany him, the French Commissioner left with a group of reporters.





## Pandemonium Governs Life in Pacific Isles

By Floyd K. Takeguchi  
Gannett News Service

AGANA, GUAM — If Americans think they have a hard time getting good service or adequate attention from their municipal and state governments, they should consider the fate of the roughly 90,000 New Hebrideans living in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.

The New Hebrides, a chain of tropical islands northeast of Australia, has the world's only condominium government — a joint British-French colonial leftover from the days of 19th century gunboat diplomacy.

In Vila, the administrative capital of the group on Efate Island, the Union Jack waves above the British residency and the Tricolor marks the French residency.

Everything in the New Hebrides condominium is done in twos.

VISITORS TO THE islands must choose to be under the jurisdiction of either the British or French immigration services. There are two police forces. Postage stamps are issued in French and British versions. Two currencies are used — the Australian dollar and the New Hebridean franc.

There are two school systems, one using French and the other English. There are two fully equipped hospitals, one British and the other French.

There is even a joint court with a French judge, a British judge and a "neutral" judge.

Under the 1902 Anglo-French Convention that established the unusual joint colonial government, the King of Spain is supposed to appoint the neutral judge. The last Spanish judge sat on the court more than 40 years ago. There was some tongue-in-cheek speculation last year that King Juan Carlos would send a new man out.

INTENSE BRITISH-FRENCH rivalry has produced a local population so divided by dual colonial allegiances that a unified New Hebridean independence movement has never been organized.

The New Hebrideans, dark skinned Melanesians culturally related to islanders in the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and New Guinea, are caught between the two colonial powers.

The political disposition of these islands is complicated by the long-term intentions of the French and British. The British, who have been cutting back on their Pacific colonial possessions in recent years, say they are holding out until the French leave.

The British maintain a unilateral pullout could jeopardize the position of English-trained New Hebrideans and leave hanging the future political status of the islands.

THE FRENCH, WITH their nickel-rich territory of New Caledonia to the south, and French Polynesia to the east, appear to believe that granting independence to the New Hebrides would set an unwanted precedent for its other Pacific territories.

The different styles of colonial administration were illustrated dramatically last year when both residencies held national day celebrations.

When the Queen's Birthday came around, British police donned their best dress whites and, with their ancient rifles perched on their shoulders, paraded around the green in front of the dilapidated British residency.

On Bastille Day, July 14, the French put their local constabulary forces in jungle fatigues and brought in French commandoes from New Caledonia to lead the parade. Land Rover utility vehicles brought up the rear.

Such nationalism is ironic since the New Hebrideans themselves are neither British nor French; they exist in diplomatic limbo.

NEW HEBRIDEANS who travel outside the condominium need identification papers from one of the residencies but legally are not citizens or subjects of either.

Even the neophyte political parties that have formed are based on these tenuous colonial ties; whether one's allegiances are with the British or French.

The first legislative elections were held only last year. There are only a handful of New Hebrideans employed by the British administration and even fewer by the French.

The potential for frustration is so great — French and English are the official colonial languages but most of the people speak New Hebridean pidgin — some long time observers say it is a daily miracle that anything gets done.

The standard joke about this strange political creation is that it should actually be called the New Hebrides pandemonium.

On the front of the Condominium Building in Vila, where a few joint Anglo-French services are offered, a large red and white sign with a small glass-faced box on it sums up the confused New Hebridean hodgepodge.

On the left side, the sign says in French: "Sirene — En cas d'incendie briser la glace et sonner trois coups repeter le signal jusqu'a l'arivee des pompiers."

Next to it, the message in English: "Fire Siren — In case of fire break glass. Sound alarm by switching on and off three times at short intervals. Continue until arrival of fire crew."

What is not mentioned is whether the fire crew speaks French, English or pidgin.



# Pacific Rebel Will Not Quit

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — Jimmy Stevens, leader of the bow-and-arrow rebellion on the South Pacific island of Espiritu Santo, refused to surrender today as Papua New Guinean troops surrounded the town Stevens controls.

Col. Tony Huai, commander of the Papua New Guinea soldiers based in the main Santo city of Luganville at the invitation of the new Vanuatu government, said Stevens refused to come out of the town of Vanafo with other leaders of his secessionist rebellion.

"It looks as if he's going to stay in Vanafo and fight, unfortunately," Huai said in a telephone interview. "This morning he said he won't be coming down to talk to us. I think he's being pressured by others. Some are quite prepared to fight."

THE COLONEL SAID that as soon he had received the message by letter that Stevens would not surrender, he sent a letter back to the rebels "telling them to make sure all the 60 to 70 women and children were out of Vanafo."

He would not reveal his plans on a possible combat move into Vanafo, but said if he did so he would take an infantry company of about 120 men.

There are about 500 rebels in Vanafo, according to a rebel captured earlier this week, but it is unsure how many of those would be willing to bear arms against a force of combat infantrymen.

Huai said he met Stevens — a Melanesian who used to operate a bulldozer — just outside Vanafo yesterday morning and after a "brief discussion" it had been agreed that Stevens would attempt to convince a group of hard-core rebels to surrender.

VANUATU GOVERNMENT spokesman John Beasant, who predicted Stevens would surrender today, said earlier this month that the government had received reports of a French expatriate training rebels in Vanafo in the use of arms and combat strategy.

Stevens and his men, backed by French plantation owners and American businessmen seeking a tax haven, took Espiritu Santo over in May. The rebels demanded autonomy for the island, hoping their armed presence would be enough to scare off the central government in Port Vila.

But the prime minister, Walter Lini, weathered the insurrection and when his island chain won independence from 74 years of British-French rule on July 31 he called in several hundred troops from Papua New Guinea to put down the revolt by Stevens.

## New Hebrides Revolt

Neal Engledow's basic premise (the New Hebrides Revolt, June 10) is wrong. The Na Griamel Independence movement on Espiritu Santo, led by Jimmy Stevens, will not lead to colonialization of the island. Such fears are groundless.

Stevens and his followers, who are being helped by the Amsterdam-based Phoenix Foundation, broke away from the colonial relationship with France and Great Britain. The foundation advisers are helping Stevens keep the island free and independent.

Furthermore, the Phoenix Foundation is a libertarian-oriented organization, not a right-wing group. Libertarians support the right of self-determination for people everywhere, and are opposed to colonialism.

A Hawaii-type takeover of the island by Americans is unlikely in the extreme. Anyone who thinks the island will be taken over by outside forces doesn't understand the temperament of libertarians, who want

to be free and independent.

Before too many knees jerk, a libertarian society on Espiritu Santo would lead to prosperity for the people there, not exploitation. The island will probably become very wealthy under the laissez faire system being supported by Phoenix, possibly leading to nearly free social services provided out of profits.

Phoenix has already offered much advice and financial support to help the island maintain its independence. It has financed a new airstrip and a local shortwave radio station, and has minted gold coins and printed up passports for the new country.

If Espiritu Santo is allowed to remain free as the new country of Vemarana it would be a real watershed for the libertarian movement and a model of a new system of self-government.

As a former resident of the New Hebrides and Tahiti, I support this independence movement all the way.

J. S. Ostrow



# Guns Smuggled to Espiritu Santo

By Peter O'Loughlin

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (AP) — An American yacht from Hawaii has smuggled automatic weapons into the rebel Pacific island of Espiritu Santo, a senior British military officer said today.

One source said there was concern that fighting might break out and pit French and British soldiers against each other.

The officer said he believed the weapons brought by the unidentified yacht were World War II American issue M-1 carbines. "If they are M-16s we are in deep trouble," he said. The M-16 is a newer, more powerful weapon than the M-1.

He said the rebels claimed they had enough weapons to arm 600 men.

Britain has 100 marine commandos on Espiritu Santo and France has 100 paratroopers, sent two weeks ago before the independence of the New Hebrides, now called Vanuatu. They have not moved against the rebels.

Vanuatu became independent Wednesday after 74 years as a joint colony of Britain and France.

The British officer, who asked not to be named, said his intelligence sources believed the guns were sent by the Phoenix Foundation, an organization of American businessmen who have supported Jimmy Stevens, one of the major island rebel leaders.

The foundation has supported his attempts to establish an independent republic on the largest and richest island in the 72-island archipelago. The republic would be free of taxes and government interference.

PROFESSOR YASH GHAI, a British constitutional adviser to the Vanuatu government, today predicted there would be bloodshed if the British forces on Santo did not move against the rebels.

"The only way to avoid a real mess is for the British troops to do something significant now," he said. "If they do nothing they are laying the real seed for bloodshed."

British and French forces were scheduled to be withdrawn from Santo and Vanuatu in two weeks.

Diplomatic sources said the British are reluctant to move against French citizens who number 900, or against their ally Stevens, who has about 3,000 followers.

"If a Frenchman is shot by a British soldier, the French government will probably move in from the other side to protect French citizens and there is a real risk of British and French soldiers shooting at one another," one source said.

The Vanuatu people have no force of their own capable of dealing with the rebels. Until Wednesday's independence ceremonies, the country had two police forces, one trained and led by Britain, the other by France.

The report of modern weapons being supplied to the rebels followed reports that the rebels yesterday had dynamited two bridges leading to the main town of Luganville.

The reports, broadcast in Australia, were not confirmed in Port Vila, but a British officer said a Royal Air Force plane that flew over the area confirmed a bridge had been destroyed.



## English-Speaking and French Hebrides People Are Active

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Wednesday, June 25, 1960

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (UPI) — English-speaking residents on the revolt-torn New Hebrides petitioned Queen Elizabeth for help today and students and teachers marched on the National Assembly demanding guarantees for a French language program.

The action, which appeared to heighten long simmering Anglo-French tensions, came on the 29th day the island of Espiritu Santo remained in the hands of French-speaking rebel plantation owners.

The petition to Queen Elizabeth was sent by Australians, New Zealanders and Britons who evacuated Espiritu Santo shortly after the take-

over May 28.

They said they had been intimidated by French officials who jointly rule the New Hebrides with the British and asked the queen to ensure full protection and assistance in returning to the rebel-held island.

Britain flew 200 commandos two weeks ago to the New Hebrides, an archipelago of 80 islands 1,100 miles northeast of Australia, but has made no move to free Espiritu Santo.

Officials estimated 1,500 schoolchildren and their teachers were involved in the march, the second large demonstration by the French in the past two weeks.

France has \$23 million committed to the New Hebrides' education system when the archipelago becomes independent July 30, but has held up the budget because of the rebellion.

In London, British and French ministers met today in another bid to solve the constitutional crisis in the islands.

Peter Blaker, British Foreign Office minister of state, and Paul Dijoud, French secretary of state for overseas territories, met at the Foreign Office for talks expected to last all day.

It was their fourth such meeting.

# U.S. Envoy Analyzes New Hebrides Problems

By Lee Catterall  
Star-Bulletin Writer

Fears of French-speaking residents in the new Pacific nation of Vanuatu that they might be excluded from its government contributed to the unrest that has troubled the islands since the approach of independence, the departing American ambassador to Fiji said yesterday.

The Vanuatu Party, formed in 1971 in a move toward independence from Britain and France, "was interpreted by the French as an attempt to eliminate the French" from government, John Condon said in a luncheon speech.

Actually, he said, the party's leaders "discovered that the bilingualism was a national asset" and "would make them a link between the French-speaking and English-speaking areas of the Pacific."

The French-speaking residents of the island chain, formerly called New Hebrides, failed to recognize the "sincerity" of that recognition, he said, and that failure was an important element of the current secessionist movement.

Also, Condon said, the French-speaking residents feared that the "winner-take-all" concept of American-style democracy in the

new nation, conflicting with the "traditional, consensus-type politics," would result in their exclusion from government.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT, headed by Prime Minister Walter Lini, took power on July 30, ending 74 years of joint rule by the French and British. However, French-speaking separatists led by former bulldozer driver Jimmy Stevens have created unrest on the island of Tanna near the southern end of the 76-island chain.

Despite the civil strife, Condon said, the week-long independence festivities were "a highly dramatic and emotional experience" witnessed by a U.S. delegation headed by author James Michener. He noted that the ceremony proclaiming independence was "almost exclusively in English."

Condon said unrest remains in the fledgling nation and troops from New Guinea began arriving Sunday at the request of the Vanuatu government to help restore order. Australia is helping to assure that a pro-Western government is sustained there, he said.

Vanuatu, Condon said, "is a bit of an oddity in the South Pacific, primarily because they had to struggle for their independence."

Condon said some Americans are believed to have taken part in the unrest, although there is "no evidence sustainable in court" that they were involved.

"One was known to be carrying arms openly," he said, and it is "common knowledge" that three Americans took part in the conflict.

"I have not heard specific evidence pinpointing responsibility," Condon said.

IN OTHER REMARKS, Condon said he believes disagreement between Fiji and the United States about fishing rights in waters surrounding that nation "is something that can be surmounted."

The Fiji government retains the



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# Honolulu Advertiser

★★ Thursday, July 31, 1980

## Now it's Vanuatu

PORT VILA, Vanuatu — The New Hebrides became the independent republic of Vanuatu yesterday but Prime Minister Walter Lini asked Britain and France, the former colonial rulers, not to leave until they end the separatist revolt on Espiritu Santo.

Seventy-four years of joint Anglo-French colonial rule came to an end as

the red-green-and-yellow tricolor was raised in Port Vila, capital of the South Pacific island chain renamed Vanuatu.

Guest troops from the United States, Australia, Fiji and Papua-New Guinea joined British and French contingents marching in the ceremonies in Independence Park.

# New Hebrides Government Issues Threat

By Denis Reinhardt

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (UPI) — The New Hebrides government has threatened to take action against secessionists on the island of Espiritu Santo unless the twin colonial powers, France and Britain restore order by Wednesday's scheduled independence ceremonies, a government spokesman said today.

Jimmy Stevens, who with a small army of French-speaking planters and natives declared independence for the Pacific archipelago's largest island, said he would talk to British and government officials today, after calling off negotiations at the last minute yesterday.

An Anglo-French military force retook the island's capital of Luganville Thursday but has not moved against Stevens or his supporters, causing concern with the government of Prime Minister-elect Walter Lini.

"The situation at the moment is both farcical and intolerable, and if the metropolitan government (Britain and France) can't restore law and order immediately, as they said the joint military mission was to accomplish, we will have no other option but to solve the matter after July 30 in our own way," government spokesman John Beasant said. He did not elaborate.

He said the New Hebrides government welcomed the Anglo-French initiative as a way of restoring the government's authority and helping refugees "whose personal property has and continues to be misappropriated by lawless elements on Santo."

THE FORCE OF 200 French paratroops and British marines has been restricted to patrolling the airport and guarding the oil dump in the town. They have made no effort to interfere with the functioning of Stevens' self-proclaimed Vemarana government.

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A-14

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## Independence for New Hebrides

It is perhaps characteristic of the ineptness of the British-French condominium rule of the New Hebrides that the islands were permitted to become independent with a rebellion in progress.

For two months one of the principal islands, Espiritu Santo, has been under the control of separatists led by the colorful Jimmy Stevens, who is supported by French planters against the English-speaking majority party.

Both Britain and France have sent troops to the island but they have not attempted to arrest Stevens or to crush the rebellion.

How the uprising is to be ended now that the islands are independent is far from clear. The French are saying they will not intervene militarily, which suggests that they would object if the British did.

Both colonial powers can now wash their hands of the mess they have created in the New Hebrides and leave the islanders to settle their differences themselves — perhaps in blood.

We wish the new nation of Vanuatu well, but wish it could have been born under more auspicious circumstances.

## New Hebrides Troops

PARIS (UPD)—France announced today it has flown a company of paratroopers to the South Pacific to stand by as a possible intervention force in the New Hebrides secession crisis.

The move came as Paul Dijoud, French State Secretary for Overseas Territories, and British Deputy Foreign Secretary Peter Blaker met in Paris concerning the situation for the second day.

French officials said that a reinforced paratroop company of about 200 men has left its base in northwest France for the French territory of New Caledonia.

A-6 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Friday, June 20, 1980



# WORLD NEWS

IN BRIEF

## Espiritu Santo

PARIS (UPI) — French and British government officials opened talks today with Jimmy Stephens, leader of the secessionist movement on the New Hebrides island of Espiritu Santo.

The Ministry for Overseas Departments and Territories said the talks began "without difficulty" but they are "complex and delicate" and no early results should be expected on how to end the revolt on the island.

France and Britain have jointly administered the New Hebrides island chain for almost 80 years and plan to grant it independence later this month.

## Hebrides Talks

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (AP) — Government officials in the New Hebrides will make another attempt tomorrow to begin negotiating with rebellious natives who took over the island of Espiritu Santo three weeks ago, a government spokesman said.

The natives rolled oil drums and trucks onto the Espiritu Santo airfield to prevent government negotiators from landing their plane on the island yesterday, but rebel leader Jimmy Stevens later proposed preliminary talks aimed at beginning negotiations.

"I'm not placing any hopes on it," said Home Affairs Minister George Kalkoa. "If it all falls on the negative side, we will have to use force. We will sit on the backs of Britain and France and say, 'Are you going to help us or not?'"

# New Hebrides Leaders Hope to Settle Dispute

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (AP) — New Hebrides government representatives will fly to the rebellious islands of Espiritu Santo and Tanna tomorrow in a final attempt to negotiate a settlement of a revolt now in its third week, a government spokesman said today.

The spokesman said the negotiations would be the government's last effort to end the insurrection before considering the use of military force.

The government's offer, which has an "un-negotiable condition" that government officials must be allowed back onto Santo, came 24 hours after 200 British Royal Marine commandos landed in Port Vila, the capital of the New Hebrides.

The British resident commissioner, Andrew Stuart, today issued a proclamation under "queen's regulations" stating that the commandos have the same authority as civil police in the matters of arrest and detention. The proclamation absolved the commandos of responsibility for any civil action that might occur against civilians during their stay in the New Hebrides.

The French commissioner, Jean-Jacques Robert, in a strongly worded diplomatic note, protested the presence of the British marines.

The New Hebrides government spokesman, John Bessant, said the government had had talks with unnamed opposition leaders in Santo and Tanna.

HE SAID THE negotiator flying to Santo tomorrow would be Sela Molisa, a native of the island who is general manager of the Federation of Co-operatives in the New Hebrides, a joint British-French organization. He will be accompanied by representatives of the British and French commissioners. Britain and France have ruled the New Hebrides for 74 years and are preparing to hand over independence on July 30.

Bessant said the negotiator going to Tanna, where a cult, which believes a World War II American medic named John Frum is the Messiah, attacked government officers last Wednesday, freed 29 prisoners and dynamited the airport, would be Willie Korisa, the minister for social affairs.



**MARINE ARRIVES**—A British marine captain, one of 30 troops dispatched to the New Hebrides, arrives at Vila Airport yesterday. —AP Photo.



# British arrive to keep order among New Hebrides natives

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (AP) — Thirty battle-dressed British marines arrived in Port Vila aboard a Royal Air Force jet this morning and were greeted by Britain's resident commissioner and about 100 curious islanders.

They were the first of some 200 marines Britain is sending here to quell a revolt by secessionist natives, some of whom worship a World War II GI who they pray will one day return and bring them consumer gadgets like radios and refrigerators.

British officials said they hope the presence of the marines, who flew here from England with fueling stops in Canada, the continental United States, Hawaii and Fiji, would restore order to the outer islands in this South Pacific archipelago 1,100 miles east of Australia. They said there were no plans for any immediate military action.

The officials called the operation one of the longest-range deployments ever undertaken by a British force.

Natives on Espiritu Santo, the second largest island, and Tanna, a small island, are attempting to secede from the country which has been jointly run by Britain and France since 1906. The 72 islands are due to become independent July 30.

The government in the capital city of Port Vila asked France and Britain for help in ending the rebellions which began May 28.

"The government has legitimate expectations for the insurrection to be put down rapidly," a spokesman for the chief minister, the Rev. Walter Lini, said yesterday.

But British commissioner Andrew Stuart said the marines would stay in Port Vila. He would not say how they would be deployed.

The 10-plane airlift is the biggest mili-

tary force in these islands since America used them as base for 250,000 troops in World War II.

Although the Americans are long gone, the memory of the GIs and their vast quantities of jeeps, trucks and canned food lingers on in the minds of many Melanesians and gives rise to the bizarre "cargo cult."

On Tanna, some Melanesians are members of the John Frum Society. They believe John Frum was an American medic who will return from Yasur volcano with all the consumer durables, or cargo, that they saw during the war.

Anthropologists who have studied the movement have been unable to confirm whether Frum actually existed. Monte Lindstrom, a University of California graduate student who lived with the cargo cultists, said he could not determine who Frum was but he did not believe he was an American GI.

"Rumors were that he was a Japanese spy . . . or a Chinese who wanted to break them away from Christianity," Lindstrom said in Berkeley.

The cult keeps a World War II American medic's jacket with Red Cross insignia on the sleeves as a holy relic. Members have adopted the Red Cross as their emblem and crude crosses dot the jungle trails of the island.

They venerate the World War II DC-3 plane which flew supplies to the islands. Primitive replicas of the planes are placed in shrines around the smoking Yasur volcano.

In an effort to attract planes, believers have hacked rough airstrips out of the bush, built bamboo control towers and made tin-can and string radios copying as closely as they can the magic that worked for the American GIs.

The cargo cultists joined with some

French-educated Melanesians on Wednesday and attacked the government district agency in Tanna. One man was killed.

The French sent riot police to New Hebrides on Wednesday, but withdrew them the next day, claiming peace was restored.

The Tanna rebellion failed but on Espiritu Santo last month rebels succeeded in taking over the city of Santo, built by Americans as a base in World War II. The town is still largely made up of old Quonset huts and base buildings which the islanders occupied when the Americans left.

The Santo rebels are led by Jimmy Stevens, a tribal chief who received advice and an anti-government free-enterprise constitution from Michael Oliver, a Nevada businessman.

Some reports say right-wing American businessmen from the Phoenix Foundation have backed the rebellion to make Santo a free-enterprise utopia without taxes or government regulation.

Stevens, whose beliefs are a mixture of Melanesian tribal customs and anti-Communist doctrine, says his army of 2,000 tribesmen is equipped with World War II weapons as well as bows and arrows.

Stevens, 57, and other islanders watched in amazement in 1945 when the Americans, rather than take their surplus equipment with them, dumped it into the sea at a place now called Million Dollar Point.

His American supporters reportedly have promised riches will flow to him and his followers if his island becomes an independent country. Oliver has admitted that he gave Stevens advice but has denied that he backed the rebellion.



# Hostages Released in New Hebrides

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — The last hostages on the rebel-held New Hebrides island of Espiritu Santo were released and left the island by launch today, an official of the Home Affairs Ministry in Port Vila said.

Espiritu Santo's District Commissioner Job Dalesa, the district police chief and eight police officers boarded a French launch at Luganville wharf in the capital city of Santo late today, according to ministry official Brian Bresnihan.

Release of the hostages was a condition set by New Hebrides Chief Minister Walter Lini before he would agree to hold any negotiations with the rebels.

Bresnihan said there were no indications that the rebels were prepared to agree to any of the other preconditions for talks, which included surrendering the arms seized in last week's attack on the Santo police station.

The New Hebrides, a chain of islands 850 miles west of Australia with a population of about 100,000,

has been ruled jointly by France and England for 74 years and is scheduled to become independent July 30.

About 600 natives armed with bows and arrows, and 50 shotgun-wielding French-speaking islanders seized Espiritu Santo on May 28 and declared independence. On Tuesday, rebel leader Jimmy Stevens renamed the island Vemarana and appointed himself prime minister of the provisional government.

Stevens purportedly wants to establish a tax free haven for capitalists.

The vessel carrying the hostages was due to arrive in Port Vila tomorrow, Bresnihan said. One week ago, expatriates living on the island, including Britons and Australians, and some islanders were evacuated.

"As far as we know, these are the last of the government hostages," he said. "The district police chief on Santo was released yesterday."

Bresnihan said Stevens, in a broadcast yesterday over the rebel radio station, reported he was prepared to release 45 hostages.



## N. Hebrides Await British Marines

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (AP) — All available police in Port Vila were on duty today at a requiem Mass for a slain political leader as a tense New Hebrides government awaited the arrival of a British marine peacekeeping force.

The 200 marines are scheduled to arrive from England on Sunday.

Chief Minister Walter Lini, flanked by the French resident commissioner, Jean-Jacques Robert, and the British commissioner, Andrew Stuart, attended the Mass in Vila Cathedral.

About 1,000 Melanesians were also at the service for Alexis Yolou, a prominent opposition leader and member of Parliament who was shot to death Wednesday.

He was in a crowd of demonstrators who stormed government offices and freed 29 prisoners from the jail on Tanna Island.

Dynamite was hurled and a wild shootout took place until police tear gas dispersed the crowd.

Yolou's body was found later with three bullet wounds.

HIS DEATH deepened the political crisis in the 72-island condominium where a secessionist group armed with bows and arrows has declared an independent republic on the island of Espiritu Santo.

Lini's government has demanded British and French military intervention to restore law and order to the country which gets independence July 30.

The French sent in 55 riot police from New Caledonia on Wednesday night, but pulled them out 24 hours later on orders from Paris,

saying the situation was calm and they were not needed.

Lini's government has asked the two colonial powers who have governed the 100,000 people in the islands for 74 years to declare a state of emergency.

It specifically asked the commissioners to invoke the emergency powers signed yesterday that would allow them to ban shipping and aircraft movements, restrict personal travel between islands and halt the sale of firearms and explosives.

Neither commissioner has agreed.

"The situation does not warrant it yet," the French commissioner said.

THE ROLE OF the British marines, once they arrive, is not clear.

British officials said they would be based in Vila in a local high school.

The officials said there were no plans for the marines to intervene to restore government control on Santo, or to help maintain law and order on Tanna.

The British and French governments have said they would act only in tandem.

The absence of French forces in the New Hebrides makes the possibility of British unilateral action unlikely, officials said.

In London, the Royal Marine commandos got their final briefing today before flying off to the South Pacific to help quell the bow-and-arrow revolt.

"Marines Fly to Stone Age Island," a tabloid Daily Mirror headline described the latest adventure for Britain's once mighty armed forces.

## Party Asks U.N. for Support

# New Hebrideans Seek

By Nadine W. Scott  
Star-Bulletin Writer

*"There was never any justice in the Condominium of the New Hebrides. The European presence has never been just. Black-birding (slavery South Seas-style) was unjust. The Condominium takeover by Britain and France was unjust, as colonialism of any form is unjust." Grace Mera, Pacific Islands Monthly, July 1976.*

A tale of repression, of decades of exploitation and political impotence for the people of the New Hebrides, these are the historical facts the president of the National party took to the United Nations Committee of 24 this month.

He is Walter Lini, a 34-year-old Anglican priest, who pleaded for his people for the second time in three

years, demanding independence for the New Hebrideans by 1977.

President Lini and his aide, George Kalkoa, were interviewed during a brief stopover here on their way home from New York.

THEY SAID the system of government in the New Hebrides is "silly," one that is humanly impossible to live with.

This is the "Condominium" set up in 1906 by the British and the French. It is unique, the only one of its kind in the world.

Neither the British nor the French wanted to be responsible for the islands, so they decided in 1906 to jointly administer governmental affairs there.

There are three separate bureaucracies — French, British and Condominium. Europeans hold the positions of power in all three.

His job is a big one. The French are stubbornly opposed to granting independence. The British might go along with independence, but not unless the French do also.

There is no independent press in the New Hebrides, Lini pointed out. The only newspapers of any size are



# Independence

run by the French and British information offices.

The National party publishes a small, mimeographed tabloid about every two months, he said.

**POPULATION** of the New Hebrides is estimated at more than 77,

000, with about 4,000 French and 1,100 British residents in control of all positions of power.

Lini and Kalkoa call the Condominium system "government by pandemonium."

They would like to change it, to let their people claim their birthright.





Walter Lini



George Kalkoa

three legal systems, three salary schedules for civil servants and two prison systems.

Mountains of paper work, duplication and confusion result from this divisiveness, they said.

Moreover, there are two educational systems, the French and the British, two school authorities with different ideologies and philosophies.

"We would like one government, only one," the Rev. Lini said.

WHERE NEW Hebrides land is concerned, Lini said, "It's the same old story all over the Pacific. Lands were taken by trickery and fraud by white traders in the old days. Three-quarters of the land in the New Hebrides was taken in that way."

This land, alienated from the native population so long ago, has quite recently been subdivided and sold to Americans on the Mainland and in Hawaii, he said. Such land has been illegally registered with the joint court, he said, but it is "only paper." The National party does not recognize the existing legal systems.

By now, Lini said 22,000 to 30,000 Americans were supposed to have settled on their land in the New Hebrides. "But they are not there," he said.

THE PROBLEM, he continued, is that the land is in the New Hebrides and the money is with speculators in the Hawaiian Islands or on the Mainland.

"Maybe it is unjust for us to stop the Americans from getting the land they want," Lini said. But unless we stop the Americans the New Hebrideans will be forever prohibited from creating the society they want, he said.

"We feel it is the right of the New Hebridean people to own their own land and decide what they are going to do on their land," he said. "That is the universal right of any human being."

LINI AND Kalkoa planned to travel through all their islands when they return to the New Hebrides to educate their people. They requested the U.N. to send a fact-finding mission to the islands and want to find out what their people will tell the U.N. representatives, should their request be honored.

Lini said for an outsider to come to New Hebrides and exploit the people is completely wrong as far as the church is concerned.

He sees his role as a politician on leave from the parish as one of leadership, and he said many of the persons in power in the National party are churchmen.

Kalkoa pointed out that the church constitutes a "very strong pressure group." He said the National party must pressure the existing government "so they will listen and so the whole world will listen."

LINI SAID, "We stated in 1974 and again in New York this month that we want independence next year. We're going to try to negotiate with the British and French people to set the date for our independence."



# The South Seas port of Vila

By ALEC HEPBURN

Special to The Advertiser

Port Vila, the rather rough and ready capital of the New Hebrides island chain, in the South Pacific 600 miles west of Fiji, still has all the romantic atmosphere of a James Michener novel.

Everybody's idea of what a sleepy little South Seas port should look like, it is the sort of place people once ran away to, to become beachcombers.

Vila slumbers away its days on Efate Island, a rugged 26 by 14 mile gem set in a sparkling emerald sea.

Cloaked in lush green jungle and coconut plantations, it is criss-crossed with rough white crushed-coral roads and fringed by almost deserted silver beaches.

In fact Efate is so lush even the fence-posts around the plantations have come back to life, each pole sprouting clumps of new leaves.

The scenery is quite breath-taking. Through the long lines of tall coconut palms there are picture-postcard views of the blue ranges in the center of the island, which rise to 2,200 feet at Mount McDonald.

Exotic birds, such as the multi-colored Coconut Lori, flit through the trees and around the tiny Melanesian leaf villages that dot the bush.

Though heading towards independence, the New Hebrides is still a colony, but, one like no other. It is the world's only Condominium, governed jointly by both Great Britain and France.

In Vila just about all services are duplicated, including the hospitals and the police.

One police force has distinctively French uniforms, the other British. At the airport there are both French and British Customs, the visitor taking his pick.

French and English are both spoken everywhere, along with a local form of Pidgin. The currency is just as mixed up.

There is a French Pacific France, stamped "Nouvelles Hebrides" for local use, but, the most widely accepted money is the Australian dollar.

Even the colorful island stamps

are printed in both French and English, making them interesting collectors' items.

The streets of Vila have grand French names and each has its own special south seas charm.

There are big old wooden administration buildings, warehouse-like department stores, curio shops, tiny cafes and brightly-painted flat-fronted Chinese shops with small shuttered display windows.

Ancient wooden idols can be seen everywhere, as decoration on bars and shops.

One of the most interesting buildings is the Cultural Centre in Rue Higginson, which houses a museum.

On display are native artifacts of all kinds, huge tribal drums carved from tree-trunks, unusual local wildlife, as well as collections of insects, stamps and historical photographs.

In the hills above the business area, rambling tropical-style houses hide behind gardens ablaze with bougainvillea, oleander and hibiscus. The heights command a sweeping panorama across the town, port and harbor.

Though it is far off the beaten track, progress is now rapidly catching up to sleepy little Vila, in the form of luxury resort hotels, supermarkets, multi-storey apartment blocks, shopping arcades, air-condition bank buildings and a new port.

However, Vila still has a long way to go to catch up to the rest of the world.

At the moment it has no daily newspaper, no television, few sidewalks or sealed roads and no proper public transport.

It does, however, have numerous taxis operated by English-speaking Melanesians and French-speaking Vietnamese.

Fares are set by regulation and there is no tipping. This also applies to all other island services, for tipping is regarded as offensive.

Only now being "discovered" by tourists, remote little Port Vila is linked to the outside world by regular air services from New Caledonia and Fiji.

The tiny airport, 3 miles from town, also handles local feeder services to Santo, the only other

town in the New Hebrides, and to the other scattered islands in the chain.

These include Tanna Island, where visitors can climb the easy slopes to view the crater of an active volcano called "Yasour".

Ambrym, a strange island of black ashes and awesome lunar scenery, or Pentecost Island, famed for its once a year "Land Divers", who leap from high towers with only ropes around their ankles to stop them from hitting the ground.

These, and the many other unusual sights of the tropical New Hebrides, await the visitor who ventures off the tourist tracks and calls in at sleepy Port Vila.





*Within a short distance  
of Vila are leaf villages  
where visitors are shyly  
welcomed, and if they  
are fortunate, serenaded  
by the children.*



MONDAY JUNE 30, 1980  
STAR BULLETIN

## A New Name for New Hebrides

VILA, New Hebrides (AP) — The South Pacific islands of the New Hebrides will be renamed "Vanuatu" when they become independent in May. Chief Minister Walter Lini said today the new name means "a country that has stood alone and will continue to stand alone."

The House of Assembly approved the name yesterday by a vote of 26-2.

## Bomb Wrecks Hebrides Radio

By Denis Reinhardt

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (UPD) — A bomb blast wrecked the government-owned national radio station in the capital of the South Pacific island chain and police said today they believe a secret army organized by the French-speaking minority was responsible.

Officials said no one was injured in the overnight explosion believed caused by a time bomb which caused extensive damage at the studios of Radio Vanuatu.

A police spokesman said no one has claimed responsibility for the explosion but he said police suspect a group known as L'Armee Secrete (secret army) made up of French-speaking businessmen and landowners could be involved in the bomb attack.

The explosion occurred hours before the scheduled arrival later today of an Anglo-French delegation to negotiate with the New Hebrides government-elect of Father Walter Lini over concessions for the French speaking minority when the island chain becomes independent July 30.

But unrest in the string of 80 islands appeared to have spread when the government sent British and French-trained police to quell a reported rebellion on the island of Malekula, about 100 miles north of Port Vila.

THE REBELS ON Malekula are believed to be followers of Jimmy Stevens, a white-bearded plantation owner leading natives and French-speaking landlords in a secessionist movement on Espiritu Santo, the New Hebrides' largest island 50 miles north of Malekula.

Stevens and his followers, who believe they will lose their land under a mainly English-speaking government, declared Espiritu Santo independent, while an opposition politician was killed in rioting in the southern island of Tanna.

British Resident Commissioner Andrew Stuart, who flew with the 43 policemen to Malekula, said the airlift was a precautionary measure after an opposition leader on the island said the rebels planned demonstrations today.

Lini's mainly English-speaking Vanuatu Party won elections last November to prepare the New Hebrides for nationhood, after 75 years of joint rule from London and Paris. Britain and France are pressing the government to include French speakers in the Cabinet as a move to end the Espiritu Santo revolt.



# New Hebrides leader

By DENIS REINHARDT

*United Press International*

PORT VILA, New Hebrides — The chief minister-elect of the New Hebrides asked Britain and France yesterday to reject a conditional offer to negotiate from rebels holding Espiritu Santo island and take military action to crush the revolt.

The appeal from Father Walter Lini asked Britain to act on its own if France refuses to jointly intervene to subdue some 200 native and white planters who declared the South Pacific chain's largest island independent May 28.

The insurgents, led by copra planter Jimmy Stevens, agreed Friday to negotiate for a peaceful settlement, but only if the talks were held on Espiritu Santo with French and British officials taking part.

Lini apparently would not accept the conditions.

There was no immediate response to Lini's request, sent to the French and British commissioners in Port Vila, the capital, some 175 miles south of Espiritu Santo.

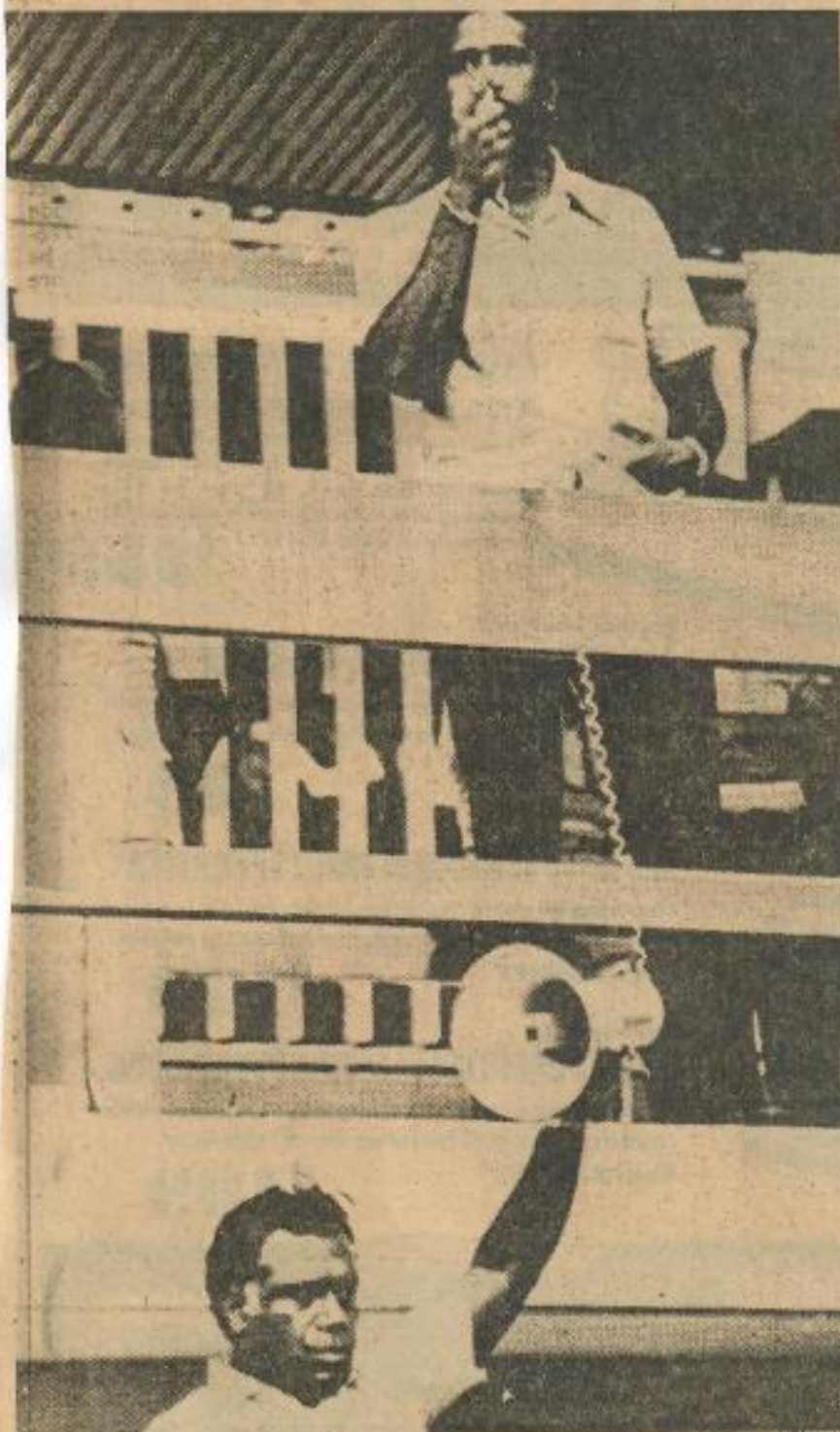
France and Britain have jointly administered the New Hebrides for 74 years, but the chain of 80 islands is scheduled to gain independence July 30.

The victory of Lini's nationalist, predominantly English-speaking Vanuaku Party in last year's popular elections to prepare for independence caused resentment among planters on French-dominated Espiritu Santo, the largest and richest island.

The discontent grew stronger because of Lini's promised land reform program, which would break up huge plantations on the island.

Along with their conditional offer to negotiate, the rebels Friday released the island's district commissioner and eight policemen held hostage since the takeover.

As an additional condition, the insurgents demanded the restoration of telex, telephone and air links to



UPI/6011

Walter Lini, provisional chief minister of the New Hebrides, addresses anti-government demonstrators staging a protest in Port Vila in support of a secessionist revolt on the island of Espiritu Santo. Former Chief Minister Gerald Leymang holds the bullhorn.



# opposes rebel offer

the island, severed in an attempt to isolate them.

There were strong indications France would not come to the emerging nation's aid.

French Commissioner Jacques Robert Friday criticized the government's blockade and assured some 1,000 French nationals on the island there would be no "foreign military

intervention."

Some 2,000 islanders have already been evacuated from Espiritu Santo, which had a population of about 4,000.

## Hebrides may pressure Britain, France for action

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (UPI) — New Hebrides officials said yesterday Prime Minister-elect Walter Lini is considering sending a delegation to Britain and France to put political pressure on the two powers to resolve the rebellion on the island of Espiritu Santo.

Lini said the solution to the crisis now rests with the two European countries which have been colonial rulers of the New Hebrides in the South Pacific for 74 years.

"It is now up to Britain and France to solve the problem on Santo," said Lini after a day-long Cabinet meeting Friday. "There is no more that we can do."

Lini had called for military action to retake the island held by rebel plantation owners. But there have been no indications of an impending joint Anglo-French military venture although 200 British commandos already have arrived in the New Hebrides capital of Port Vila and French paratroopers are expected to go on a standby alert in New Caledonia, 300 miles to the south.

The plantation owners seized Espiritu Santo May 28. They feared they would lose their holdings in a land reform program after the New Hebrides become independent July 30.

## Britain Will Send Marines

© N.Y. Times Service

LONDON—Britain announced today that it is sending a company of marine commandos to the New Hebrides, a South Pacific archipelago that has been increasingly disrupted in the past two weeks by rebellion on two islands.

The government stopped short of saying that the troops would actually engage the rebellious tribesmen militarily, declaring that their mission was "to provide stability" in a confused and uneasy situation in the islands. They are jointly administered by France and Britain as a colonial condominium, but are due to achieve independence next month.

Earlier today, France sent a para-military force of its own to the islands.

The decision to send British troops was strenuously objected to by several members of Parliament.

The troops, numbering between 150 and 200, are being flown from England to the islands and are expected to arrive on Saturday in Vila, the capital.

"Military action is not necessarily going to solve the problem," Peter Blaker, Foreign Office minister of state, told the House of Commons. "But the people in the New Hebrides have to live together in the future. We want to create a situation in which the basic problems are resolved, in which the people are prepared to live with one another in peace."

Lord Carrington, the foreign secretary, said that it "goes without saying" that continued instability on the islands could delay independence, which is scheduled for July 30.

A-4 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Wednesday, June 11, 1980



On Hebrides Lots

# Developer Hopes for Title Clearance

By Russ Lynch  
Star-Bulletin Writer

A developer who sold hundreds of houselots in the New Hebrides to Isle residents a decade ago said yesterday he still hopes titles can be registered for the buyers, who have yet to get legal control of their land.

Developer Eugene Peacock, who led the way in sales of the South Pacific land in Hawaii when he put his first New Hebrides subdivision on the market in 1968, was interviewed by telephone in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Asked what he thinks the May 28 revolution on Espiritu Santo — the

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## Last Hostages Freed in New Hebrides—A-4

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island where all his lots were located — might mean to the Isle buyers. Peacock said he believes title will eventually become clear.

Peacock said "most of the people defaulted" on their purchase agreements for the lots he marketed in Hawaii through Amalgamated Land Inc., estimated at some 2,500 lots.

"But we have said we will give anyone who is still interested, who has paid anything at all, a chance to own," as soon as the difficulty of getting title in the New Hebrides is resolved, he said.

BUT HE ADDED that even Lini's Vanuaaku Party is expected to let land ownership revert to "native custom law." Thus the agreement he has with the group on Espiritu Santo "still could be valid" if Lini's group, headquartered in Port Vila on the island of Efate, gains control of the whole country.

Peacock said he is still "very hopeful" the Hawaii residents who bought will eventually get their properties.

Peacock's New Hebrides subdivisions first went on the market here in 1968 after Peacock decided to take advantage of the tax-free status under the British-French "condominium" colonial government and the lack of subdivision laws.

The colonial administrations jointly imposed a 50 percent tax on developers' added value in 1971 and produced other restrictions, making them retroactive to cover Peacock's first developments.

The State of Hawaii suspended Hawaii sales here after that and that suspension is still in force, according to state Licensing Administrator Dick Okaji.

Peacock said he has information sources in the New Hebrides but like everyone else cannot predict the outcome of Stevens' revolt on Espiritu Santo, the largest island in the group, which began May 28.

He said he is not involved in the revolution.



There has been no attempt to foreclose on the lots that were not completely paid for, he said.

Peacock said he hopes the problems will be worked out, no matter who gets control in the New Hebrides.

**A PARTY HEADED** by Father Walter Lini is supposed to take over the country when the British and French administrators allow it to become independent — a change now scheduled for July 31.

The Espiritu Santo rebels, however, oppose Lini and say they fear loss of their land when Lini takes over. The 200 or so rebels — led by Jimmy Stevens, a white-bearded plantation owner of mostly Melanesian ancestry, and armed with bows and arrows, muskets and spears — declared an independent state on Espiritu Santo 10 days ago.

Peacock said that since early 1976 a "trust agreement" has been in effect with the Nagriamel group, which has been described as the foundation of Stevens' movement.

The agreement provides that any unsold properties in the Espiritu Santo developments will go into a joint-venture status. Those properties would not be sold but leased for 99 years.

"They have guaranteed they will register all titles of those we sold" before the British-French government retroactively ruled the subdivisions illegal, Peacock said.

"If that agreement is honored we're all in good shape," he said.

**THERE WERE HINTS** that U.S. landowners were behind it and a Nevada man, Mike Oliver, has said he advised Stevens on how to manage the revolt.

But Peacock said he had nothing to do with it.

One of the problems there, he said, is that elections which gave Lini control were "fraudulent." The last election was "rigged," Peacock said.

Peacock said he is now developing "farm-type" properties in Costa Rica, where he got into the development business early in 1971 "when we weren't able to do any more in the New Hebrides."

Some installment-contract buyers of the New Hebrides lots in Hawaii got some of their money back recently.

Installment payments had been made for a time into trust accounts and the savings institution holding the accounts told the payers May 23 they could come and take out their money since the company that sold them the lots appeared to be "defunct."

Those who paid outright for the lots or made large down payments during the New Hebrides sales boom in Hawaii — mostly in 1970 — did not get their money back or title to their purchases.

Peacock has maintained throughout that the arbitrary retroactive moves by the British and French governments were beyond his control but has always appeared optimistic that titles would in the end be registered.



# New Hebrides: land &

Shortly after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and launched the United States into World War II, American ships streamed into the Southwest Pacific laden with men and equipment for new bases against the advancing foe.

One of their destinations was "Base Buttons," the U.S. Navy code name for Espiritu Santo, the largest of some 80 islands in a Y-shaped archipelago that Captain James Cook, who had a penchant for incongruous nomenclature, had called the New Hebrides after a group of Scottish isles that are as cold and bleak as their Pacific namesakes are hot and lush.

**EVENTUALLY THERE** were more than 50,000 Americans on Espiritu Santo, and up to 120 ships stood in the harbor at Luganville, the only real town on the island, at one time. The flamboyant scene on "Santo" inspired a young naval officer named James Michener to write "Tales of the South Pacific," the prizewinning novel that was adapted for the Broadway hit musical and a later moneymaking movie, filmed partly on Kauai, called just "South Pacific."

The Americans all went home after the war, but the bulldozers, trucks, jeeps and other equipment they brought are still there, under water. The military offered to sell the stuff to the joint British-French administration for a pittance, but the offer was turned down.

Then the Americans wanted to give the lot to the native New Hebrideans, but the British and French said that this would upset the local economy. Bringing the material home would be expensive and serve no purpose, so the Americans just dumped it all into the sea near a spit of land now known as Million Dollar Point.

War returned to Espiritu Santo last week in a less lavish style, with spears and shotguns as the weapons, in the form of a revolt led by a charismatic land reformist named James Tupou Stevens.

He is better known as plain Jimmy Stevens, but is sometimes called "Chief President Moses" by his thousands of Melanesian followers because he led them out of the wilderness, like the Biblical Moses and the Israelites.

**THE GOAL OF** the rebellion, said to be backed by French planters and a band of moneyed American idealists, is to make Espiritu Santo an independent state separate from the rest of the New Hebrides, which are scheduled to become a sovereign nation on

July 30 under the new name Vanuatu ("our land").

The Americans backing Stevens are the same people who set out to establish a new taxless republic a few years ago on uninhab-

## robert trumbull

The writer recently retired from the New York Times after 36 years as a foreign correspondent, mostly in Asia and the South Pacific. He is the author of "Tin Roofs and Palm Trees," a book about the history, politics, and culture of the Pacific islands.

ited Minera Reef, but were foiled when the Kingdom of Tonga, which claims the reef, dispatched a boat to plant the Tongan flag on the site. Now they apparently hope to achieve their aims on Espiritu Santo, with Jimmy's cooperation in return for their help in the rebellion.

The French planters are an improbable ally for Stevens, for it was he and his group who



Advertiser photo by John Griffin

JIMMY STEVENS in 1970

THE HONOLULU ADVERTISER

4 JUNE 1980

A-18



## tax at issue

seized a large tract of French-owned land near Luganville and turned it into a model agricultural settlement a decade or so ago.

The planters, it is reported from the scene, feel that they will lose the considerable holdings they have left on Espiritu Santo if the island comes under the new nationalist government headed by the Rev. Walter Lini, an Anglican priest.

Stevens, who is about 50 years old, bears the surname of a grandfather who came to Tonga as a seaman and trader and married a relative of the royal family. His half-English, half-Tongan son married a New Hebridean woman who produced Jimmy.

**IN AN INTERVIEW** a few years ago, conducted in Pidgin, Stevens said that he had worked for the American military on Santo as a bulldozer operator. He had also been the commander of a trading vessel, the caretaker for a Roman Catholic church, and a vegetable gardener.

A natural organizer with a flowing gray beard that made him an impressive figure to the clean-shaven Melanesians, he formed a nationalist land reform movement called Nagriamel, a name derived from the Melanesian words for two plants—the nagria, or croton, and mel, or cycad palm—that figure in village rituals.

The Nagriamel headquarters, in a village called Vanafo, became a showplace under Jimmy's direction. Demonstration vegetable plots were tilled by volunteers who would work a while, then returned to their own villages to teach better agricultural methods and spread the Nagriamel message of nationalism, land redistribution and the return to traditional lifestyles. The place drew so many interested visitors that a reception center was set up in the central square.

The British and French authorities in Vila, the capital on Efate island south of Espiritu Santo, were amused when Stevens hired an Indian lawyer in Fiji to draw up a petition to the United Nations seeking independence for the new Hebrides a few years ago.

**IN THOSE DAYS**, independence was thought to be far away; the British were willing to consider pulling out, but France insisted on keeping the islands and their 80,000 Melanesian people as a handy labor pool for the lucrative nickel mines on nearby New Caledonia, another French territory.

But political maturity developed swiftly in the New Hebrides, and the end of colonial rule came sooner than expected. And nobody laughs at Jimmy Stevens any more.



# The New Hebrides

By Neal Engledow

Star-Bulletin News Editor

COLONIALISM, despite protestations from governing powers, is paternalistic by nature.

Just as a father provides his child with the mental and physical requirements needed to face the world, colonial powers, in theory, prepare their charges in the same way.

Thus, it is understandable, and perhaps justifiable, that the political, economic and religious institutions established in colonies reflect those of governing powers: like fathers, they teach what they know best.

The recent trouble in the New Hebrides, however, points to the limitations of the parent-child analogy.

In the first place, as a colonial "child," the New Hebrides has two "fathers."

The establishment of the British and French condominium government in 1906 came after years of haggling and was an example of colonialism at its worst.

Neither power really wanted the islands, having gorged themselves in the rest of the Pacific and Africa.

Neither power, however, wanted to relinquish them to the other.

The problem of self-interest was resolved with short-sightedness.

INSTEAD OF DIVIDING the islands into two colonies — not an unreasonable solution considering that the New Hebrideans did not perceive themselves as a unified nation — the joint administration was created.

This left the New Hebrideans not only with a cumbersome, and often unworkable, bureaucracy, but with two "guiding lights" to follow.

This arrangement probably was doomed to failure from the start, but confusing the matter is the second limitation of the parent-child analogy: the relationship between the governing power and the colony is not biological.

Colonies were "adopted," usually against their will, and did not come into the fold as malleable as a newborn infant.

In fact, the colonies generally saw themselves as "adults," and frequently resented efforts to change their lives.

In some instances, the differences between the new order the governing power wished to impose and the established order in the colony were not irreconcilable.

In other instances, the conflict be-

tween the two has been fatal.

Fiji, where Britain utilized the traditional chiefly system to suit its own purposes, is an example of the former. Northern Ireland is an example of the latter.

PRESUPPOSING a favorable mixing of the old and new orders, however, was the existence of a single order on each side.

This obviously was not the case on the governing side in the New Hebrides, with the British and French often working to cross-purposes.

Nor was it the case on the side of the New Hebrideans.

Like the rest of Melanesia, the New Hebrides has many islands.

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*The revolt in the New Hebrides shows how ineffective the islands' preparation for independence has been.*

---

many languages, many religions and few traditional leaders with power over more than a handful of villages.

Unlike other Melanesians, the New Hebrideans have not had a single governing power encouraging them to see themselves as one nation, speaking one language, practicing the same religion and following the same leaders.

It is little wonder that Jimmy Stevens has appeared on the scene.

His emergence has not been an overnight affair, but gradual, over the last 20 years.

The condominium government originally saw him as the leader of a "cargo cult" — Melanesia's version of a millennial movement.

But Stevens' success as a leader was not based on the supernatural. It was derived from his ability to work within both the old and the new orders.

He established himself as a "big man" in the traditional manner by building a wider and wider series of reciprocal obligations.

YET HE DREW on his Western heritage (he is of mixed blood) and was able to establish himself as a "plantation owner."

He has cunningly gone with the flow of the political tide. At one time some members of the Vanu-



# Revolt

9 JUNE 1980  
HS-B

aaku Party, the party he is rebelling against, admired his contempt for the condominium government.

Currently he is in alliance with French planters, who once saw him as a threat, but now flock to his side.

His relationship with a right-wing American group is understandable. He is a self-made man and has a long history of rejecting governmental interference.

But where does he go from here?

Perhaps the reason he is negotiating with the administration is that he realizes the British reluctantly, and the French even more reluctantly, would use force to quell his rebellion.

Perhaps he recognizes that his relationship with the planters and the Phoenix Foundation could become as constraining as any deal he could strike with the government.

Regardless, his revolt has illustrated how ineffective the condominium has been in preparing the islands for independence and pointed to a sore spot the Vanuaaku Party will have to solve.

The "child," having lived through 70-odd years of the worst colonialism has had to offer, now perhaps can teach the "parents" a lesson by finding a solution to its problem in its own manner.



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A-4 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Monday, June 2, 1980

## 'No Panic' Among Evacuees 700 Are Removed from Rebel Island

VILA, New Hebrides (UPI)—More than 700 people, mostly women and children, were evacuated today from the South Pacific island of Espiritu Santo, seized by spear-wielding plantation owners trying to block independence of the little tax haven from France and Britain.

Father Walter Lini, prime minister-elect of the New Hebrides chain which becomes independent July 30, said some people were hurt and there was some property damage and looting, but no deaths, during the takeover last Wednesday.

Lini did not say if his interim government plans any action against the separatists, but on Saturday he asked the United Nations for military assistance to quash the uprising on the island used as a model for the hit musical "South Pacific."

Government sources said the 700 people had been taken by small interisland trading vessels to the small island of Tangoa, just off the coast of Espiritu Santo, and would be transported to the island chain's capital of Vila, some 200 miles to the south.

"There is no panic; the evacuation is proceeding in an orderly fashion," a spokesman said.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH Espiritu Santo have been severely disrupted, and the rebels are expected to

attempt to seal off the island once the evacuation is completed.

Plantation owners led by the white-bearded Eurasian Jimmy Stephens took over the island in a coup last Wednesday, using shotguns and bows and arrows, seizing the airport and imprisoning the district commissioner and about a dozen policemen.

Stephens and several French copra planters fear they will lose their land with independence. They are believed to have the backing of an extreme right-wing American group, the Phoenix Foundation, whose leaders hope to establish a totally free utopia in the New Hebrides.

Espiritu Santo, with a population of 17,000, is the largest island in the New Hebrides and has become popular as a tax haven for Westerners since World War II, when it housed an American military base and later became the model for the musical "South Pacific."

The New Hebrides, a chain of islands in the South Pacific east of Australia, is currently ruled by France and Britain in the only joint colonial administration in the world.

The island chain will change its name upon independence to Vanuaaku. It has a population of some 100,000, including many French and British as well as Melanesians and mixed races.



# Led by Stevens Rebel Government in New Hebrides

By Peter O'Loughlin

PORT VILA, New Hebrides (AP) — Rebels holding Espiritu Santo, the largest island in the New Hebrides chain in the South Pacific, today announced formation of a new provisional government.

A broadcast statement said Jimmy Stevens, a native of the island with mixed ancestry, would be prime minister. He has been supported for several years by French and American businessmen looking to make Santo a tax haven.

Earlier today, the New Hebrides chief minister stalked out of a meeting with British and French officials to protest what he said was their lack of support in putting down the rebellion.

Walter Lini said he would not meet again with the British and French representatives. The two nations have jointly ruled the South Pacific island group for the past 74 years.

LINI, WHOSE government is scheduled to gain independence on July 30, said he would consult his cabinet to see what, if any, action might be taken against the rebels.

The chief minister has no military force, but his ruling Vanuaku Party has threatened to recruit one and fight to regain control of the rebel-held island in a move that could mean civil war among the 100,000 inhabitants of the 74 islands 850 miles east of Australia.

After conferring yesterday in Paris with his French counterpart, M. Paul Dijoud, Britain's Foreign

Office Minister of State Peter Blaker today told the House of Commons in London that Britain and France would "eliminate the meddling" in the island chain.

Blaker said Britain already has sent two military advisers to the islands to see "what steps may be necessary in the military sense if peaceful negotiations do not succeed."

He also said the United States had agreed to see if there was any violation of American laws.

The uprising, supported by American and French businessmen seeking a tax haven, began Wednesday when about 600 natives armed with bows and arrows and led by some 50 French-speaking islanders with shotguns seized control of Espiritu Santo.

"Things are happening too fast and nothing seems to be getting done," Lini complained to reporters. "People are still being evacuated from Santo and one infant died aboard a ship."

MORE THAN 1,000 natives and about 100 foreigners, mostly Australians, Britons and New Zealanders, have evacuated Espiritu Santo in a flotilla of small trading ships. A handful of foreigners, including Americans, French, Britons and Australians, remained on the island, British officials said.

Stevens lost to Lini in an election for chief minister.

Lini claims Stevens' supporters include an American investment group called the Phoenix Foundation, based in Carson City, Nev.

A-4 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Tuesday, June 3, 1980



**STEVENS SPEAKS**—New Hebrides separatist leader Jimmy Stevens addresses a group of his followers Sunday on the island of Espiritu Santo. He announced the formation of a provisional government today. —AP Photo.





**TROUBLED ISLES**—Map shows the New Hebrides chain where an American-backed group and French plantation owners reportedly have created unrest in the town of Santo and on the island of Tanna.

# Americans Back Revolt in Hebrides

By Peter O'Loughlin

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Armed separatists, supported by French plantation owners and a group of U.S. businessmen looking for a tax haven are in control of Santo, the second largest town in the New Hebrides' island chain, government sources said today.

They said a policeman in Santo was wounded by an arrow, but that no Europeans were hurt or captured in the town of 5,000.

The sources also said the separatists kidnapped police and seized government offices on Tanna, an island 300 miles southeast of Santo, but that police had retaken Tanna after an exchange of gunfire and freed all the hostages with no casualties reported.

The sources identified the American supporters of the insurrection as members of the Phoenix Foundation, which they described as a right-wing group headed by a Carson City, Nevada real estate developer who has supported Jimmy Stevens, the

Turn to Page A-4, Col. 1

# Revolt Reported in New Hebrides

Continued from Page One

New Hebridean leader of the Santo breakaway group.

The Phoenix Foundation had tried previously without success to establish an independent country, free of taxes and government restrictions, in the Pacific and in the Bahamas, the sources said.

INDEPENDENT confirmation of the sources' report on the Americans was not immediately available. The names of the developer and other Americans involved were not disclosed.

The chief minister of the New Hebrides, Walter Lini, said in a broadcast today there is "a complete breakdown of law and order" on Espirtu Santo, the largest island of the group, where Santo is located.

"This has been engineered by people who will not accept the lawful democratic government," Lini said.

Lini, who was elected chief minister last year, said the government had suspended air traffic to Santo, ordered public servants to leave and cut off telephone and telegraphic communications.

"This is a state of affairs we regret in the extreme," Lini said. "We call upon those people on Santo to cease the campaign of violence and acknowledge the lawfully elected government."

Insurrection has been fermenting in the New Hebrides for several years, brought about by its unique political situation.

The group of 80 islands, with a population of 100,000, has been a condominium for 74 years, ruled jointly by Britain and France. Both countries have agreed to grant independence on July 30.



# British, French to meet on isle revolt

By PETER O'LOUGHLIN  
Associated Press

VILA, New Hebrides — Government officials held an emergency meeting yesterday to consider ways to wrest the second largest island in this South Pacific group from separatists who took control three days ago.

New Hebrides Chief Minister Walter Lini, 37, British Resident Commissioner, Andrew Stuart, and French Resident Commissioner Jean-Jacques Robert considered possible police action by France and Britain to retake Espiritu Santo, 400 miles to the north.

Lini, an Anglican priest, said earlier in a broadcast that law and order there had broken down completely. French and British officials were to meet tomorrow in Paris to consider Stuart's request for help.

Espiritu Santo was seized in a pre-dawn raid Wednesday by 800 spear-carrying native rebels led by 50 French-speaking Europeans armed with shotguns. British officials in London said earlier.

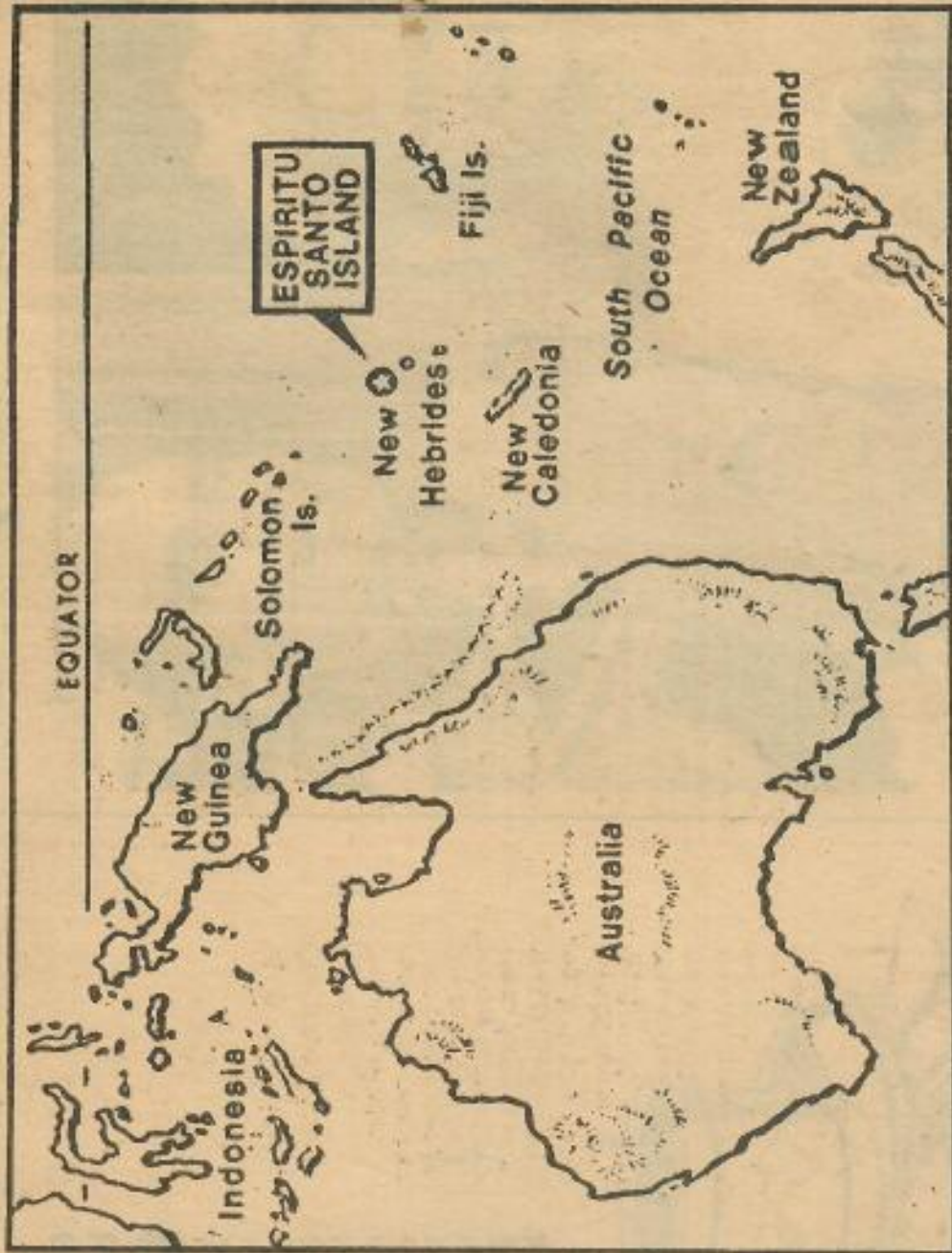
The rebels apparently want to secede from the New Hebrides union, which is scheduled to be given independence July 30 after 74 years of joint British-French rule.

The separatists took over government installations in Santo, the main town on Espiritu Santo and the second largest in the islands with a population of 5,000. The capital of Vila is the largest with 20,000 residents.

Sources in Vila said the insurgents abducted 10 Melanesian policemen, one of whom was reported to have been injured by an arrow.

Communications with Espiritu Santo were severed by Lini's orders in an attempt to limit the revolt, and the policemen's fate was not known.

No British or Europeans were reported hurt or captured, and it was not known if there were any Americans on the island. The New Hebrides government sent two small



UPI/REUTERS

In Vila, the atmosphere was tense but quiet yesterday. Extra police from the British and French administrations — who run separate police forces as well as separate jails and separate schools — were called out for duty.

The seven dance halls in Vila were crowded as usual and the daily planeload of Australian tourists arrived uninterrupted.

boats to Espiritu Santo to take out a group of 54 Australian tourists and an unknown number of British residents.

The separatists also tried to seize government offices on the island of Tanna, 130 miles south of the capital, and briefly kidnapped about a dozen policemen. But other policemen dispersed the raiders and there were no reports of casualties.

The revolt on Espiritu Santo is led by Jimmy Stevens, who is of British, Melanesian and Polynesian heritage.

Sources here said he is supported by a few American businessmen who want to establish a tax free state and by French planters who fear the Lini government is too closely aligned with Britain.





A BRITISH official on top of a small hill in Vila, capital of the New Hebrides, says: "We would go tomorrow, if the French would." Nearby, on a slightly more eminent hill, a French spokesman says: "Ah-hh — but who would look after our colonists?"

In these tiny Pacific Islands 500 miles west of Fiji, the British have almost no colonists. French land holdings are considerable.

By historical accident, Britain and France have ruled the native population jointly for 70 years. And if you ask their respective spokesmen "What will happen?" both, in their separate ways, shrug.

But the dilemma of the New Hebrides, where 100,000 Melanesians want independence, is bigger than a shrug. The islands sit in the knot of a Melanesian spider's web whose strands stretch to all the new emergent nations of the Pacific.

A hundred years ago this web was spun by largely British and French colonial interest. Now — and with gathering momentum since Papua New Guinea became independent of Australia in 1975 — on to the Anglo-French puzzle are grafted American, Russian, Japanese, Indonesian and Australasian interest, with China sitting in the wings. A new power game is beginning in the South Pacific.

From JAMES

development of the Melanesian peoples — about four millions, spread over a stretch of ocean twice the length of the Mediterranean; its influence extends to Polynesia, including French Polynesia; it is a leading agent in the Forum; and it has in its Prime Minister, Michael Somare, a man of such astuteness and popular force that even Australia, which once dismissed him as a hothead, has come to woo him.

Mr Somare is not yet 40. He is a mediator and peacemaker, but he is also a nationalist. Where he goes other Pacific nations are likely to follow. This means initially the Solomons (independence, 1977), New Hebrides (next-in-line?), possibly Fiji and eventually — though observers claim the French won't leave without a fight — French-speaking New Caledonia.

Excepting Fiji, these countries are relatively unspoiled; they see few tourists, have empty beaches; their resources, once thought confined to the coffee, coconut, copra and spice belt, are now found to range from copper to coal to bauxite deposits, to beef, palm oil and a rich timber potential.

The New Hebrides has the added attraction of having become a kind of international tax-haven.

And because these people are neolithic, and Melanesian — tougher, more vital than the softer Polynesian to the east — they have something called "culture."

Their culture is eroded but much of what is lost is being revitalised. Amid the current gropings for identity, Melanesian culture — as Papua New Guinea is just finding out — is proving a handy political weapon.

Mr Somare talks of a Melanesian "federation" of states, possibly including Fiji. This, a mutual-aid cornerstone of small interdependent nations amid a sea of conflicting big-power interests, may happen. But — non-aligned?



## Fishing rights

A year ago the Russians began making overtures to Tonga, the most feudal zone in the area. The Russians want fishing rights in return for building an international airport.

Later last year it was reported that five Communist States, including China, had offered technical aid to neighbouring Western Samoa, whose Premier, Tupuola Efi, said recently: "If our traditional friends are not prepared to help us, we will have to look elsewhere."

By traditional friends Efi means Britain, Australia and New Zealand. In the light of New Zealand's latest policy — which includes random police checks on Pacific Islanders in the street, and deportation of overstayers — his remark seems natural, and he has been seconded by other Pacific leaders, notably in Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

These last two countries are close — in outlook, in culture, in a pragmatic approach to trade, in a desire for a nuclear-free Pacific and, paradoxically, — perhaps naively — in a desire for a continuing policy of non-alignment.

Together, they are the strongest voice in the South Pacific Forum, to which the newly independent Pacific states belong.

Already the Forum has begun to overshadow the older colonial inspired South Pacific Commission, which has its headquarters in the heart of French New Caledonia.

France's role, linked to defence (Tahiti possessions) and to economy (nickel in New Caledonia), is paralleled by America's "goodwill intrusion" in Micronesia, that chain of tiny islands and independent culture which sits umbrella-like on top of the whole Melanesian web. The latest American move, following the Russian approach to Tonga, is to seek a naval base in the north of Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea, the most populous and potentially the most powerful of all Pacific Island states, holds the key to the

## Gleaming handshake

He says: "We have resources." True. He says: "Australia is good to us." Equally true. Australia, with nearly \$1000 million promised in aid over the next five years, has given Papua New Guinea both independence and a most gleaming handshake. He also says: "We want to be a friend to all." Naive?

Mr Somare has been careful not to antagonise the Indonesians, with whom he shares a border. He has said No to the American naval approach — "It won't happen."

So far, he says, no Communist state has come knocking; nor, for all that his society is essentially socialist in structure, does he seem interested in a Communist move.

Recently he signed an aid agreement with President Marcos of the Philippines. Already there are 2000 to 3000 Filipino technicians in Papua New Guinea. There is a growing Japanese presence and, reportedly, a queue of international airlines seeking landing rights.

Mr Somare's problem is that of small nations everywhere in the Pacific — he is bedevilled by offers of foreign aid and he knows that his stated policy of non-alignment is unrealistic.

Of course all this Mr Somare's "federation" — assumes that the French



# PACIFIC POWER GAMES

## **McNEISH in Vila.**

will leave the New Hebrides and New Caledonia in peace.

It is by no means certain that they will. In the New Hebrides, as political tension mounts, businessmen are starting to pack and leave — but while the French remain the British, outnumbered three to one, doggedly hang on.

The British have backed the nationals who want the colonials out; the French in reply are cementing their influence, by building new offices, new clinics, new schools everywhere.

This New Hebridean comedy — alternately billed as "Condominium", "Pandemonium", or two-men-in-a-boat-pulling-in-opposite-directions, has now turned sour. And if one asks why the French wish to hold the New Hebrides, where they have very little material gain, the answer is simply that if the New Hebrides go, New Caledonia is bound to follow.

The French have held New Caledonia since 1853. It has a Governor and returns a deputy and a senator to the French Parliament. Because of nickel it

has long been their richest possession in the Pacific.

Now the nickel boom is over, but little else, it seems, is working to the advantage of the local inhabitants.

Indigenous New Caledonians and French nationals are equal in numbers — just over 50,000 of each group — but the former have no political voice as such, retain only 12 per cent of their land and have been given so little tertiary education that to date there is still no local lawyer, no local doctor.

## **Last refuge**

While nearby the New Hebrides simmers and farther west Michael Somare talks of confederation, New Caledonia remains a colonial anachronism.

Perhaps the saddest thing about this long and beautiful island is that it has become a last refuge for the French colon himself, the Gallic dispossessed.

He has been kicked out of Africa, has lost his Indochina and his Algeria and now finds himself an uneasy settler in yet another hostile land. He has nowhere left to go. — London Observer Service.





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12/77

BIOLOGIST / HATCHERY MANAGER

Freshwater Prawn Farming, New Hebrides.

Pacific Chevrettes, a new outfit, is commencing Freshwater Prawn farming in New Hebrides, using rearing techniques developed by French research in Tahiti. Although Pacific Chevrettes is Australian, it has developed close links with French scientists in Tahiti, and will be the first fully commercial test of their techniques.

We are looking for a man to run the hatchery, and probably later to extend to broader work. We don't expect to find someone skilled in crustacean production, so we are looking for someone resilient enough to adapt, learn quickly from literature and briefing and apply his knowledge to commercial production. We expect him to be a graduate familiar with physiology, pathology, microbiology and nutrition. The primary task will be running a hatchery producing up to 6 million post-larvae per year in a high-density system with careful control of salinity, temperature, feeding and disease control. The techniques for this are established, but need adjustment to local conditions. He will have two Tahiti-trained New Hebridean technicians, and probably two other assistants.



The applicant's attitude, character and ability to adjust to the circumstances will be as important as his qualifications and experience. He will have to learn Bislama ('pidgin English') quickly, and French would also be a distinct advantage. He will need to work with Melanesians under the Australian manager and we would like him to contribute to the esprit de corps of a pioneering group. We cannot offer the position to women for local social reasons.

The hatchery site is 11 Km from Vila, the capital, and accommodation can be arranged nearby. Company vehicles will be available. Salary will be tax-free, and to it will be added two-yearly return flights to Australia. Assistance with initial removal to New Hebrides will be provided on a basis to be agreed.

Salary is negotiable, and applicants should state their required range. We would prefer informal handwritten applications which include comments on the applicants' outlook and personal feelings about the proposal. The manager will be the only person to read the applications, and prefers frankness to formality. A photograph would help, as would the names of referees. No person should consider themselves debarred from applying on the grounds of age or qualifications.

We expect the hatchery to be ready to commence in May 1979 and certain immigration formalities must be complied with. We therefore wish to make a choice rapidly. There is no closing date for applications, but they should be sent quickly to The Manager, Pacific Chevrettes, P.O. Box 500, Port Vila, New Hebrides.



CENTRE CULTUREL DES NOUVELLES HÉBRIDES  
NEW HEBRIDES CULTURAL CENTRE

Board of Management  
Comité de Gestion

*Copy for George Balanus.*

PORT-VILA, le 11th February, 1974

The Director,  
Pacific Scientific Information Center,  
Bernice P. Bishop Museum,  
HONOLULU,  
Hawai.

Dear Sir,

Because of a considerable increase of the population and the tourist industry, the Sea-Turtles are restlessly hunted and their eggs collected to often.

In order to prevent serious depredation; the Naturalist of the Vila Museum is about to draw up a regulation protecting all species of Sea-Turtles, which will be submitted for approval by the two Governments of the New Hebrides.

I would be most grateful if you could let me have a model regulation or make any other suggestions.

I also wonder if you could let me know the distribution of the listed birds.

Thanking you for your co-operation in advance.

I remain sincerely yours,

*Heinrich L. Bregulla*

HEINRICH L. BREGULLA  
NATURALIST

PORT VILA NEW HEBRIDES S PACIFIC

*answer  
3/1/74*

*Thank you for any help you can furnish.  
EHB*





# France's Pacific troubles

A pan-Melanesian movement spearheaded by the new state of Vanuatu, formerly the New Hebrides, and Papua New Guinea, the largest and potentially one of the richest of the South Pacific island nations, is threatening the stubborn hold of France on her far-flung possessions in Oceania.

The immediate targets of Melanesian nationalism are New Caledonia, a territory blessed with enormous deposits of nickel and other valuable ores, and French Polynesia, a welter of verdant islands and atolls that afford Paris indispensable sites for testing nuclear weapons components.

LEFT OUT of the political turmoil building up against France in the South Pacific, at least for the moment, is the French territory of Wallis and Futuna, two small groups of Polynesian islands. Once attached administratively to New Caledonia, they are now separate but remain part of the far-flung labor pool for the French-owned nickel industry on the larger island.

The Wallisians, as the natives of Wallis and Futuna are called, do not get along with the Melanesians of New Caledonia and are an unpopular minority in Noumea, the capital. Conceivably they might be attracted to a union with fellow Polynesians now under the hegemony of Paris, if French Polynesia ever becomes independent.

Like many other Pacific island peoples, the Melanesians both in Vanuatu and New Caledonia were encouraged in their aspirations for political independence through their association with the hundreds of thousands of American military personnel, including countless staunch and vocal anti-colonialists, who were stationed on the islands during World War II.

The Americans never hesitated to voice their opinion of the exploita-

tive French and British presence in the Pacific. At the same time, they brought physical improvements — such as the 30-mile paved road, still in use, between Noumea and Tontouta International Airport — that underlined the shortcomings of the colonial masters in developmental fields, lesson not lost on the native peoples.

Britain has pulled out of all her former Pacific colonies except lone-

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## robert trumbull

*The writer was a foreign correspondent for the New York Times for 36 years, mostly in Asia and the Pacific, and now does special assignments for that newspaper from a Honolulu base. He writes this column for The Advertiser.*

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ly Pitcairn Island, populated by fewer than 100 people descended mostly from the mutineers in HMS Bounty. Except in Vanuatu, where their departure from the former British-French condominium was prodded by their English partners, the French keep holding on.

The independence movement is less than overwhelming in the remaining French possessions, as shown by elections in which pro-French and moderates have prevailed, but the danger signals are plainly seen in the gradual but constant gains by native separatists.

In response, France keeps granting more autonomy in the island territories. The islanders elect their own representatives in the French parliament, who vote on an equal basis with their metropolitan colleagues — a right still denied, by the way, to the delegates to Congress from American islands in the Pacific and the Caribbean. But the ultimate

control still rests in Paris.

France advances numerous arguments in the effort to counteract secessionism. Pro-French advocates assert that the islands would founder financially without the economic aid supplied from Paris, nor could the island people defend themselves in a rapacious world without the protection of French power.

There is much truth in the French contentions, although exception might be taken as to the alleged economic non-viability of mineral-rich New Caledonia, whose nickel smelter on the edge of Noumea makes that island the only industrialized territory in the South Pacific except for tiny Nauru, the phosphate island, and a small part of Papua New Guinea's vast area.

BUT HAS ANY nationalist anywhere been deterred by economic considerations? How many of the scores of former colonies that have become independent since World War II are yet in sound financial shape? With few exceptions, all belong to the struggling Third World of developing countries.

The final French riposte to the independentists is the unequivocal statement that the islands in question are French soil, an integral part of France, and they will remain so, by God, come what may.

In the end, however, it will be the islanders who will decide, as dependent peoples elsewhere have done, whether their lands really are soil of a country of a different race and culture, half a world away.

Vanuatu sounded a tocsin of sorts by expelling the French ambassador after a Vanuatuan official flying to New Caledonia to attend an independentist convention was turned around at Tontouta Airport and sent home. Papua New Guinea, meanwhile, has taken up the Melanesian case in New Caledonia at the United Nations.



# France's Troubles with Vanuatu

16 Feb 1981 Honolulu Star-Bulletin By Ian Ward

PORT VILA, Vanuatu — Vanuatu, the six-month-old South Sea island republic, formerly the New Hebrides, which took the extraordinary step of declaring the French ambassador persona non grata two weeks ago, is now ready to make the first move toward regularizing relations with Paris.

But, the government insists, it will accept no more high-handed French posturing.

If a new ambassador is to be appointed — and this would be welcomed — France must understand that the days when, as a joint colonial ruler with Britain, it could maneuver and manipulate power in these islands are gone forever.

Since the islands achieved independence from 75 years of British-French control on July 30 last year, all the social and political rivalries of the dual colonial system have simmered away relentlessly beneath the surface of day-to-day life.

The English-speaking government of Prime Minister Walter Lini has suggested that it was France's refusal to allow a Vanuatu minister to attend a political meeting in nearby French New Caledonia that triggered the ousting of the French ambassador.

In fact the matter goes much deeper.

There has been severe tension between Paris and Port Vila since aid negotiations with France began last November. France has been holding out the prospect of an assistance program but Paris insisted that most of the money be directly controlled by its embassy and earmarked for French education. The remaining amount would be allotted to the local authorities for budgetary aid.

While Vanuatu and French authorities wrestled with the aid program,

Britain and Australia concluded aid programs without much ado.

The Lini government felt that the French terms were unreasonable and would only serve to perpetuate the muddled dual education system of French-speaking and English-speaking schools, which deeply resent each other.

Still, Vanuatu's leaders need the French funds and recently they privately announced their willingness to meet the French terms.

Immediately the French ambassador in Port Vila, Yves Rodrigues, began pressing for those French na-

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*The new nation of Vanuatu is giving the former colonial power some rough treatment.*

---

tionals expelled to New Caledonia for their part in last year's Espiritu Santo rebellion — known as the "Coconut War" — to be allowed to return.

The French handed over a list of suggested returnees; among the names were some of the most violent persons of those deported.

This was the real trigger to the ambassador's expulsion.

THE VANUATU authorities had no intention of permitting the return of French colonials who had actively supported the uprising led by the tragi-comic 57-year-old Jimmy Stevens, the self-proclaimed prime minister of his independent Vemana Federation. The French ambassador was given 24 hours to leave Vanuatu.

The French were quick to retaliate and served notice that they would be withdrawing 20 of their senior personnel. Close on the heels of the

ambassador went the head of Vanuatu's customs department, the chiefs of public works and civil aviation and 11 badly needed teachers. Stretched very thin for administrative staff, the Vanuatu government faced a civil service manpower crisis.

The French were furious and said so. An embassy statement deplored the Vanuatu government's handling of the affair and claimed that the decision to request the departure of the ambassador amounted to a sudden refusal by the Vanuatu government to accept the aid agreement proposed by France.

"The Vanuatu government is accordingly responsible for the consequences which will result from this change of attitude," said the French statement.

Subsequently the Vanuatu government took the issue one step further. Its deputy prime minister and minister for home affairs, Fred Timakata, on a visit to Washington, brought up the subject of the departure of the French ambassador during a meeting with President Reagan.

LOCAL BROADCASTS over Radio Vanuatu claimed that Reagan assured Timakata the United States was watching the situation in Vanuatu closely.

Reagan was reported as confirming American support for small and newly independent nations standing firm by their principles and seeking to retain their integrity.

Vanuatu remains unwilling to accept the French aid package as it relates to education. However, government leaders are willing to discuss the replacement of the ambassador and a new aid agreement that would protect French cultural interests in this part of the South Pacific.

London Daily Telegraph



# Vanuatu is again attrac

By Kathleen Hancock

Old Pacific hands, ex-U.S. marines and connoisseurs of off-beat islands will be glad to hear that the former New Hebrides, now independent and wearing its new name of Vanuatu, is back to normal for tourists. Citizens of this polyglot new Pacific state, Melanesian, European, Polynesian and Asian, are pulling together to attract more tourists to enjoy the increasing attractions of this fascinating area.

The opening of a swatch of new restaurants in Vila itself, several of them French, underlines confidence in the future. And some elegant new specialty shops selling a tempting assortment of French bijoux and bibelots also have appeared on the waterfront. The taxi service has improved out of sight, cars are cleaner, newer and there are more of them.

Contrast is the name of the traveler's game in these islands. In Vila, the capital, a straggle of Chinese shops jostles a few small boutiques and a couple of trade stores selling a selection of gourmet foods you'd be hard pressed to find in a town 10 times its size. Snack bars like La Terrasse on the waterfront serve very good food, and in them it's just as easy to buy an aperitif as a cup of coffee. Keen-eyed tourists look for bargains in the open-air market and no visitor should miss the array of artifacts at Island Crafts, run by Australian Judith Wood, one of the most knowledgeable dealers in the Pacific.

Rossi's Hotel is the oldest in the group and still a favourite watering place for the locals. Planters and traders, government officials and shopkeepers, travelers of all kinds, sip long drinks on the tiled terrace overlooking the limpid lagoon. The cooking is first class.

La Hotte is one of the best eating places and its food is reasonable. Don't be frightened by the prices on the blackboard

menu — the cost of the main dish includes soup, entree and dessert. Pisces, overlooking Billa Harvour, has great food and excellent service. The Pandanus, long a gourmet's shrine, changed hands recently, but the new owner, a restaurateur from Djibouti, is keeping the same high standards. And, of course, that idyllic setting at the head of Erakor Lagoon can never change.

Yves Rossi, son of the founder of the old Rossi Hotel, has taken over the Olympic and its restaurant. He's transformed the latter into a symphony of green and white, the cuisine is right up to the Rossi standard and he reckons the cellar is the best in Port Vila.

A different order of food is part of the package when you take a day trip to Hideaway Island, a tiny dot only few hundred yards from the mainland in Mele Bay. It's a groaning board of succulent local food here. Tucked away in the palms and casuatinas, each bungalow enjoys its strip of shoreline. It's a favourite day out for locals on weekends, when dancing starts as the sun goes down. It's also got some of the best and most accessible scuba diving in this area.

Not far up the beach from Le Lagon Hotel, still one of the loveliest resorts in the Pacific, you come to Nicolai Michoutouchkine's museum-cum-atelier on the same bay. This is a treasure house of artifacts from all over the Pacific, with the emphasis on Melanesia. Printed fabric lengths, too, the work of Michoutouchkine, or his Wallis Islander friend, Pilioko.

If you want to explore more distant beaches, then take off for the Manuro Club, about 50 kilometres round the coast — hire a car, the road's corrugated but the traffic's minimal — and again sample good French cooking. A small but charming beach and a string of simple bungalows make this a pleasant variation on the hotel theme.

Santo, the big island to the north, sleeps in the noonday sun. A short flight brings you to a scruffy little township where every step discloses a reminder of the Pacific war. This was the staging post for the Battle of the Pacific. In 1943, there were about 40,000 troops in Santo, mostly American, later joined by about 1,400 New Zealand airmen. French planters sent their daughters to a safer island, while Michener's "Bloody Mary" traded with the new arrivals.

Santo's small hotel is a good headquarters for visitors who want to explore the enchanting beaches to the north of this big island and the forested coastline to the south. Wreck divers will find the sunken hulk of the President Coolidge an experience they won't forget. Australian Allan Power, famed underwater photographer, is your man here. It's worth noting that in this largely Melanesian township, population about 3,000, three new restaurants, one French, one Chinese and one Melanesian, have sprung up recently. If all else fails, the French section of the 200 strong European population must eat well.

On the southern island of Tanna, any reasonably fit traveler can conquer the most accessible volcano in the world in about an hour's sweaty climb. Wild horses roam the White Grass plain on Tanna and the lush rain forest provides any amount of scope for walk-



# ing Pacific travelers



Photo by Kathleen Hancock

Local farmers bring their produce to the open air market in Port Vila.

ers and climbers. You can rent bungalows here for a modest sum and either eat at a real French restaurant incongruously housed in a thatched hut or do for yourself on a spirit-stove after shopping at Russell Paul's trade store.

All in all, you could say that Vanuatu is one of the most variegated travel experiences in the whole of the Pacific.



case, is surely up to those states to adopt a more united and harder bargaining position. They cannot realistically expect Australia to do this for them.

The comment which concerned me most was the one attributed to Dr William Sutherland to the effect that 'the Australian Government must confront Australian domestic interests with what SPARTECA must achieve'.

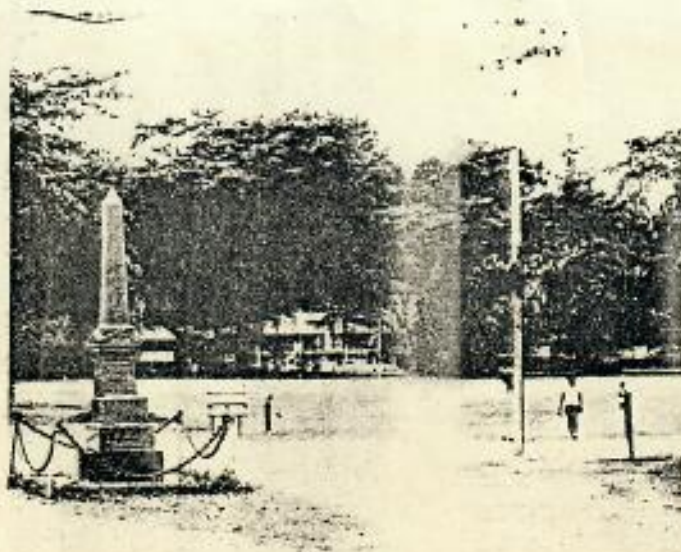
Confront them with what? Without an agreement whereby a small group of Pacific business-people prosper, possibly at the expense of their Australian counterparts? With an agreement that will help to ensure that the elites in these countries have sufficient foreign exchange to continue living in the manner to which they have become accustomed?

Before waxing lyrical about the importance of SPARTECA to the Pacific countries one would do well to remember that these are predominantly rural societies where linkages between industrial growth and general improvements in the welfare of the people do not necessarily go hand in hand.

Having got this far, and before I lose too many readers, I must now confess that I am not totally serious in all of this. But too often, and in all seriousness, a 'good guys and villains' dichotomy is drawn in discussing relations between the more and less developed countries that is both inappropriate and counter-productive. Above I have not told the whole story. Nor does the Sutherland argument, as reported, tell the whole story.

An old and basic premise to the understanding of the international behaviour of any country is to look at the domestic political constraints on that country's foreign policy. In the case of Australia there are real domestic constraints on what any government can do by way of liberalising trade.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, for example, earnestly supports the cause of developing countries. Yet in the more limited confines of Australian economic debate he can be seen as a protectionist. There are real powers at work here that cannot be easily pushed



aside or circumvented. To suggest otherwise is like suggesting gravity should go away so man can fly.

If SPARTECA is not fulfilling the expectations of the Pacific states this may well be because those expectations are not solidly enough grounded. A realistic evaluation of what SPARTECA is, or might become, should similarly be cognizant of what is possible. Black and white pictures of good guys and villains do not help.

My prognosis should not however be mistaken as a conservative one. Man learnt to fly, but not by wishing gravity away.

T. CRESSING

Millswood SA  
Australia

### Protecting marine life in Vanuatu

I wish to express my concern about the gradual disappearance of the rare species of underwater life from the waters of Vanuatu. The red and black corals are becoming increasingly scarce round Vanuatu as expatriates pick it all up in order partly to decorate their homes, and partly to sell it to jewellers at high prices.

Another very serious concern is the killing of turtles for their shells which is a current occupation of expatriate citizens, who ought to be best prepared to respect the natural environment of their host country. Allen Power, the author of a book on the Great Barrier Reef and the leader of dive ex-

peditions in Santo, can recall the days when, not very long ago, there used to be red coral growing all along the main wharf in Luganville, until a diving team came and picked it all up in one day — it never grew again.

The wreck of the *President Coolidge* is also currently ransacked and the coral gardens above the *Coolidge* are often used as a free souvenir shop. As there is no legislation in Vanuatu at present, the people concerned with the rapid disappearance of rare corals, shells and turtles are left helpless and can only watch with increasing anxiety the chain of life based on those corals gradually disintegrating.

Let us hope legislation will soon be established so we can all still enjoy the rare beauty of the underwater life round Vanuatu.

In the meantime I hope this letter will encourage people to be more considerate.

FRANCOISE BRINDLE

Santo  
Vanuatu

### Dry eye over an unintended tomb

I have nothing against white people — I happen to be one. But I'll leave it to Stu Inder (PIM May p25) to express remorse that the racist Christopher Robinson lies in an unintended grave in Port Moresby.

Inder reported that Robinson, while acting administrator of Papua in 1904, was involved in a clash in which 'a

The Robinson monument: 'Able governor, upright man, honest judge'. — Picture by C. W. Kimmorley.

number of natives were killed'. When the Australian Government pointed out to Robinson that killing 'natives' was not proper, poor Robinson shot himself.

Inder reported that the white citizens in the colonial stronghold of Samarai eulogised Robinson with a monument: 'Able Governor, upright man, honest judge. His aim was to make New Guinea a country for white men.'

In contrast, Inder lamented, his Hanuabada granite slab states: 'In memory of Christopher Robinson, who died 20 June 1904, aged 32. RIP.' Perhaps 'RIP' means 'residing in purgatory'.

J. GREGORY

Honolulu Hawaii  
USA

### Calling William A. Robinson

Two letters in the May issue of PIM have pleasing features — one written by Mrs Electa Johnson of Massachusetts, and the other by Bruce McCloskey of Florida. They bear witness to the widespread circulation of the magazine, and that of Mrs Johnson spreads the good news that her husband, Irving, is alive and well and not demised as stated by me in my article in PIM earlier this year. I was wrongly informed, I am happy to say — seadogs of his calibre should never let go of the wheel.

My article also said that William A. Robinson's *Svaap* was wrecked in the Galapagos group. Mr McCloskey in his letter states that the vessel was left there and taken over by the Ecuadorian Government when Robinson was evacuated to Panama after contracting acute appendicitis.

In the preface to his book *To the Great Southern Sea* which describes a voyage he made in his 22-metre brigantine *Varua*, in 1951, from Papeete down to the edge of the Antarctic iceberg region, thence across to Chile, up to Panama and back to Papeete, he mentions visiting the Galapagos during his second cruise in *Svaap*, his



Rene Grandjean  
ORSTOM  
BP 76  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu

13 July 1982  
OFFICE DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE  
OUTRE-MER  
Boite Postale 76 — PORT-VILA  
VANUATU  
(Ex-Nouvelles-Hébrides)

Dear George,

Many thanks for your letters and the article on turtles in Tokelau. I can see that you are still interested in the South Pacific turtle resources. Referring to New Caledonia I must confess that I do not know what happened further to Peter Pritchard's visit early August 1980. We had almost arranged the charter of a sailing boat to go to the famous green turtles nesting island Huon. As you know I left New Caledonia at the end of August to go to Africa.



Nothing has been done here on turtles.  
There are only a few. I was told that in  
some place digging the eggs is traditionally  
"tabu". I have only seen a couple since  
I have been here.

George, you no doubt remember  
that two years ago you mailed me some  
tablets (enclosure). Would you be kind enough  
to do it again. Enclosed, please find US\$20.  
I thank you in advance for your  
assistance in this matter.  
I hope to see you again in the not  
too distant future. Best personal regards. Sincerely yours,  
René



Size of island?  
season?  
Species? Letter sent 6/19  
+ manual

FISHERIES PROJECT  
PAKITA VILLAGE  
TONGOA  
VANUATU  
23.5.84

Dear Sir

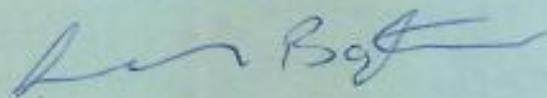
At present I am the fisheries advisor for the Shepard group, VANUATU, on one of the islands under my jurisdiction a fair number of turtles, come to breed, and as this is too good an opportunity to miss, I would like to do some work researching into these wonderful creatures,

Jim Crossland recommended you name to me as the leading turtle authority in the Pacific. So I would value any help plus advice on the subject of turtles, Eg what information would you find useful, advice on tagging, also if you could supply tags and other necessary equipment.

THE ISLAND I am referring to is Namouka 16° 51' SOUTH  
168° 24' EAST.

I look forward to your reply

yours Hopefully



SEAN BAXTER

DFT





J. Leonard  
P.O. Box 129  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu  
S. Pacific

WORKSHOP ON TUNA  
FISHING  
OPERATIONS  
TARAWA, 28 MAY - 4 JUNE 1984

P.O. Box 129, Port Vila  
10 June 1984

Dear George,

Many thanks for your letters of 3 April and 24 May. I apologise for not having replied sooner, due among other things to the Forum Fisheries Committee annual meeting in Vila, the above workshop and a bout of dengue fever.

Well, I have received the poster, your document on Tokelau (which I had read before and found fascinating), the synopsis on the hankbill and the information on the WWF audio visual show. I will certainly write immediately to obtain a copy. Thank you for all your help which is much appreciated.

One of the volunteers in our department, who manages a village fishing project on Tongoa in the Shepherds Group, would like to do some tagging of green turtles. These come to nest on a small islet offshore each summer season. He will be there for this coming summer and most probably the one after. Should it be (a) feasible or (b) useful, if he were to measure and tag the nesting turtles?



If so, I will ask him to write to you for  
advice. However, if this will be a burden  
for you please let me know!

Best regards

Jim Bronlund

P.S. I forgot the turtle stamp report.

We don't have plans for a turtle stamp  
here but the hawkbill will feature  
on this year's Christmas cards of the  
Vermont Natural Science Society.

J.



SEAN BAXTER  
PASTOR'S PROJECT  
PAVITA VILLAGE TONGA  
VANUA 3.7.84

Dear George

THANK you on the information on turtles, very useful, Thank you as to the information you wanted, we definitely have Green turtles (Chelonia mydas) this based on two shells I have seen in the village, though one shell has an extra central scute between the fourth and fifth, but I am fairly shure it is a green turtles. THE people in the village say the is a different type; but could not pick it out from pictures. So I shall wait and see

I am not certain of the numbers of turtles that come to Nanonka, I am just going on local ~~knowledge~~ knowledge, which am afraid gets distorted "place e full up Boss, Pull up" but I was told that about the lobsters I went diving for and caught one. But there is a lot of turtles in the area around my islands most days while out fishing I can count at least one or two especially in rough weather on the windward side of the island

THE island of Nanonka is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  wide it has one sand beach about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile long made of white sand with some large coral, the beach faces NW in the lee of the island + EP; At one end of the beach it is very steeply sloped but at the northern end it is fairly gentle

Again according to the people the turtles nest from Sept- to Dec and hatch in Jan-Feb, Nanonka is uninhabited, but is close to EP; and as far as I can tell is quite heavily exploited by the people there, I live on the island of Tonga about 5 miles away not on NANONKA

As time is stretching on I would like some information on or better still data record sheets sent + tags and any other useful information or equipment + as you may have gathered it

DICTIONARY



← To open cut here - Ouvrir couper ici →

AEROGRAMME  
By Air Mail  
Par Avion



Vanuatu

TO  
George BACAZE  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
PO Box 3830, 96812  
~~8570~~ BOULDER STREET HONOLULU  
Hawaii

← Second fold here - Plier ici en second →

From  
S BAXTER  
FISHERIES PROJECT PANITA VILLAGE  
TONGARA VANUATU SE PACIFIC

An Aerogramme should not contain any enclosure;  
Un Aérogramme ne doit rien contenir intérieurement.

← First fold here - Plier ici en premier →





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Center  
Honolulu Laboratory  
P. O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

September 18, 1984

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Sean Baxter  
Fisheries Project  
Panita Village, Tongoa  
Vanuatu

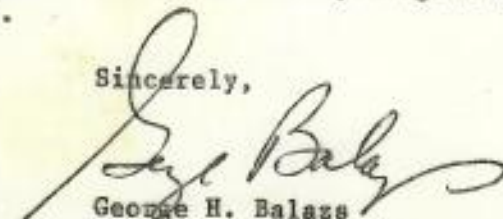
Dear Sean,

As requested, I am pleased to be able to send you a supply of turtle tags for use at your neighbor island of Mamouka. A tag applicator, a measuring tape, and full information on how to tag, and what data to collect, are also enclosed. It will be very interesting to see what sort of long-distance recoveries result from your tagging effort.

Please be sure to send me a copy of your tagging record, including dates, tag numbers, shell measurements, tagging locations, and species. "Lost" tag data are a constant problem among many sea turtle researchers. However, thus far I have been able to keep my record clean!

Best regards--I'll be anxious to hear from you again when the nesting season ends in a few months.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs  
Wildlife Biologist

NOS. 1351-1400 (50)

Size 49 HMB inscription





June 7, 1985

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. James Crossland  
Fishery Officer  
P. O. Box 129  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu (South Pacific)

Dear Jim,

As you will undoubtedly recall, back in September of last year I sent 50 turtle tags and a tag applicator to Sean Baxter at his request for use on Namouka Island. After sending the package to him by air mail, along with a cover letter and tagging instructions, I never heard back from him on the outcome of his efforts. Was it possible for him to tag any turtles? What species were found to nest on Namouka? Is Sean still employed in your program? A brief up-date on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

I hope that the presentation on sea turtles you gave to the Vanuatu Natural Science Association turned out well.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

cc: Balazs  
HL ✓



**A Start to Nature Conservation in the New Hebrides**

ADRIAN G. MARSHALL



LIBRARY OF  
GEORGE H. BALAZS



### A START TO NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE NEW HEBRIDES

The New Hebrides, a mountainous archipelago of about 80 islands, lie in the South-west Pacific about 1,800 km north-east of Sydney, Australia. The islands are largely covered with tropical forest and are of great natural beauty. As would be expected, neither the floral nor faunal species-diversity is very great, although a number of interesting endemic forms do occur: for example, there are only 15 species of wild mammals (11 bats and 4 rodents), 68 species of land and freshwater birds (of which 7 are endemic); 20 reptiles (excluding turtles), and 1 amphibian.

The human population is low (about 90,000 people on a land area of 15,000 km<sup>2</sup>) and there are no large towns, so that, currently, the pressures upon wildlife are not great. However, two developments give cause for concern to conservationists: firstly, the destructive exploitation of the kauri forests, one of the great natural resources of the New Hebrides, and, secondly, the emergence of the New Hebrides as a tax-haven of growing international significance. The latter has meant a sudden influx of businesses, and speculative developments attempting to lure foreigners (notably Americans) to settle in the archipelago; as a result land values in Vila, the picturesque little capital on Efate, now approach those of the world's great metropolises.

Fortunately it appears that the British and French Governments, who jointly administer the New Hebrides Condominium, are well aware of the dangers, although the translation of awareness into action is difficult within the complexities of a condominium. Large-scale immigration would appear to me to be most disadvantageous to the people of the New Hebrides, as it could result in social and political problems outweighing biological ones. However, even with strictly limited immigration, the natural population increase will bring increasing pressure upon wildlife in the future.

Under these circumstances it is most encouraging to see that positive steps are being taken to conserve wildlife. At the present time there are no nature reserves in the New Hebrides, although there are laws for the general protection of birds. Currently, however, there are before the two Governments proposals for the establishment of 4 reserves (see Fig. 1): (1) Reef Island Reserve, (2) Duck Lake Reserve, Efate, (3) Botanical and Ornithological Gardens, Efate, and (4) Kauri Forest Sanctuary, Erromanga. The proposal for this last sanctuary originated from members of the Royal Society and Percy Sladen Expedition to the New Hebrides, 1971, whereas the first three items are being proposed by Mr H. L. Bregulla and others of the Cultural Centre, Vila, who are particularly concerned

with the threat to wildlife on Efate, due to the rapid expansion of Vila. The Cultural Centre itself is a notable contribution to conservation, with its library and museum, and the Management Committee are currently sponsoring a book on New Hebridean birds

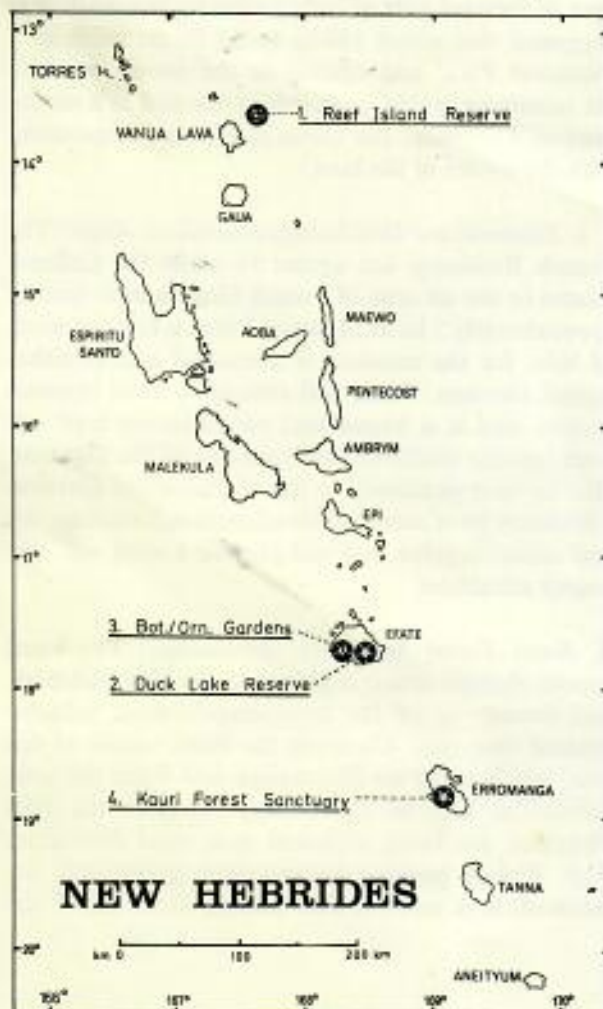


Fig. 1. Proposed conservation areas in the New Hebrides

which it is hoped to follow with others on the local flora and fauna. It seems appropriate to add the following details concerning the present proposals:

1. *Reef Island Reserve*: This, the only coral atoll in the archipelago, consists of 15 flat islets occupying in all 92 ha. It is uninhabited, and would prove a valuable site for scientific studies on the formation of reefs and lagoons with their associated biota. Currently, a Joint Regulation providing for the absolute protection of this atoll has been agreed to by the two Governments concerned, and negotiations are proceeding with the owners prior to the regulations being declared law.



2. *Duck Lake Reserve, Efate*: The proposed reserve will have an area of about 3,000–5,000 ha and will encompass the 3 ha Duck Lake (one of the most important areas for freshwater and swamp birds in the New Hebrides), will be bordered by the Rentapao River, and will include an extremely wild and broken area of forested hills of little economic potential. It is suggested that about 100 ha could be set aside as a 'National Park' and opened to the public, whereas the remainder would be strictly controlled as a nature reserve. Currently, the Governments are negotiating with the owner of the land.

3. *Botanical and Ornithological Gardens, Efate*: The French Residency has agreed to allow the Cultural Centre to use an area of French Government land of approximately 3 ha at Malapoa Point, a few km north of Vila, for the creation of Botanical and Ornithological Gardens. These will contain a small research station, and it is hoped that neighbouring land will soon become available for expansion of the Gardens. Due to their proximity to the capital, these Gardens will clearly be of considerable educational, recreational and scientific value, and will provide a most welcome tourist attraction.

4. *Kauri Forest Sanctuary, Erromanga*: The kauri species *Agathis obtusa* is unique to the New Hebrides, and forms one of the archipelago's most valuable natural resources. Currently the finest stands of this tree, which occur on Erromanga and form the only substantial area of high-canopy forest in the New Hebrides, are being exploited in a most destructive way. Unless positive conservation procedures are initiated, it is possible that mature kauri forest will

be largely eliminated within a year. What is needed is the immediate and total protection from commercial exploitation of a considerable area of mature forest. This area will act as a control area for the assessment of the effects of large-scale logging operations, as a source of seed, and as a laboratory for the detailed study of the ecology of this endemic species. It is proposed that an area of 2,500 ha, containing good stands of *A. obtusa* and covering a complete river catchment area, be set aside as a sanctuary. The area proposed is reasonably accessible for scientific investigation, and it is suggested that a small government building with living accommodation and laboratory space be built. Negotiations are proceeding and current indications are that they will be successful.

Clearly, the present time is a critical one for conservation in the New Hebrides. If the current proposals are successful, they will form a firm foundation for a comprehensive conservation programme for the archipelago. Local conservationists feel that it would be of great assistance to their cause if interested conservation bodies and individuals throughout the world would express their views in writing to the British and French Resident Commissioners (at their respective Residency, Vila, Efate, New Hebrides). Such support from the international community has proved of value in innumerable cases, and is one of the few ways in which we can actively assist our fellow conservationists in foreign lands.

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# The New Hebrides'

On the island of Tanna, in the southern New Hebrides, the verdant landscape is dotted with crudely fashioned wooden crosses about three feet high, painted red and encircled with stones or shells. These are the emblem of the John Frum cargo cult, and represent the red cross insignia on the jacket of a mysterious American medical corpsman who served on the island during World War II. It is worshipped by thousands of Melanesians.

The John Frum cargo cult, which has long fascinated island buffs, became more widely known this month when its followers staged a rebellion against the new indigenous government of the New Hebrides, which are scheduled to become an independent country on July 30 after 76 years of joint rule by Britain and France. The revolt on Tanna followed a similar breakaway movement on the northern island of Espiritu Santo.

**THERE ARE RELIGIOUS** aspects, if cargo cults qualify as a religion, to the whole New Hebrides political mix. The uprising on Espiritu Santo is led by a part-English, part-Polynesian, part-Melanesian reformist named Jimmy Stevens, whose nativist land-reform organization, called Nagriamel, also has cultish aspects.

The legitimate government that is supposed to run the whole chain of some 80 islands after July 30 is an Anglican priest, the Rev. Walter Lini. His predecessor and principal rival, the Rev. Bernard Leymang, is a Roman Catholic priest. The two Melanesian clerics symbolize the divisiveness inherited from the bizarre condominium arrangement, Anglicanism being a British contribution to the island mores, while the Roman Catholics, of course, are part of the French influence in the cultural stew.

Whatever the accomplishments of the various missionary orders may have been in these largely primitive islands, certainly for good in areas such as health and education but less so in others, the two main religious communities are part of the political polarization produced by the rivalry between Britons and French in

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## robert trumbull

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proselyting the New Hebrides for their different ways of life, including the languages they speak. The twin rebellions on Espiritu Santo and Tanna are one result of the dichotomy.

**BUT WHO WAS** John Frum? Nobody knows, and it seems likely that John Frum is nobody's name, anyway. According to one theory, the name is a twist on the phrase "from John," referring to John from whom all blessings flow. Some say that "frum" is just a local perversion of the word "broom," an implement that the followers of the cult, which enjoins cleanliness, are encouraged to use around their houses.

Actually, the John Frum cult was known before World War II brought the GIs to Tanna with all that fabulous "cargo" — the Melanesian pidgin word for



# cargo cult

goodies brought by ship, later by plane. In fact, the movement had figured in a brush with the island authorities once before.

The adoption of an American soldier as a messiah figure was an expectable development in the cult, for the Melanesians had never seen such riches as the GIs brought to their islands and handed out freely. The fact that many were black was taken as proof that the possession of luxuries like tinned food and beer, among other coveted items denied the native, need not be confined to white men. Thus the war brought a resurgence of cargo cults throughout the Southwest Pacific.

**JOHN FRUM** is described by elder cult members as a small, sandy-haired man with a high voice, wearing boots and a sun helmet, who often appeared at village gatherings in the evening and passed out homespun advice on hygiene and other novel ideas. He also tickled the villagers, and was in complete conformity with cargo cult philosophy, by urging them to respect their traditional religion and customs and forget what the missionaries had said to the contrary.

Thus a god was made on the obscure island of Tanna. Like other cargo cults elsewhere, the John Frum movement inspired the members to defy the colonial masters. A militant corps known as the Tanna Army appeared, in American-style khaki uniforms with "Tanna-U.S.A." embroidered on the shirt fronts. When the group started regular drills with wooden rifles, the alarmed authorities stepped in and arrested the leaders.

Devotees, following another cargo cult custom elsewhere, killed their pigs and threw their posses-



sions, including money, into the sea. They expected more and better stuff with the promised return of John Frum. In anticipation of this event, the islanders hacked a space in the jungle for his plane to land, and built crude sheds to hold the expected loot.

**A WHOLE GENERATION** has passed since the American troops left the New Hebrides and the cargo stopped coming, yet the cultists continue to venerate an old green U.S. Army field jacket with a sergeant's stripes on the sleeves and the red cross of the medical corps on a shoulder patch.

A few years ago, an English-speaking cult leader who had once been a teacher in a Presbyterian mission school was asked if he, a man of some education, really believed that John Frum would some day return. He smiled and answered softly, "People have waited 2,000 years for Christ—we can wait a few more years for John."