

tok blong s.p.p.f.

SPRING 1982

#1

an introduction

The title of this quarterly newsletter---edited, printed, and circulated by the South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada---is not quite true. In fact, relatively little of the "tok blongs"(talk belongs) to S.P.P.F.. While we will be using this newsletter to bring you the latest on S.P.P.F.'s activities, plans, and resources, we will also be featuring articles, descriptions and opinions from many different parts of the Pacific and from a variety of people---all of whom live, or have lived, in the South Pacific.

We have received permission to reprint material from Pacific Islands Monthly(the South Pacific's leading newsmagazine), and all publications emanating from the Institute of Pacific Studies at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. We are also developing a network of "foreign correspondents"---Canadians and others in the South Pacific---whom we have asked to share with us and you first-hand insights into developments in the various Pacific islands.

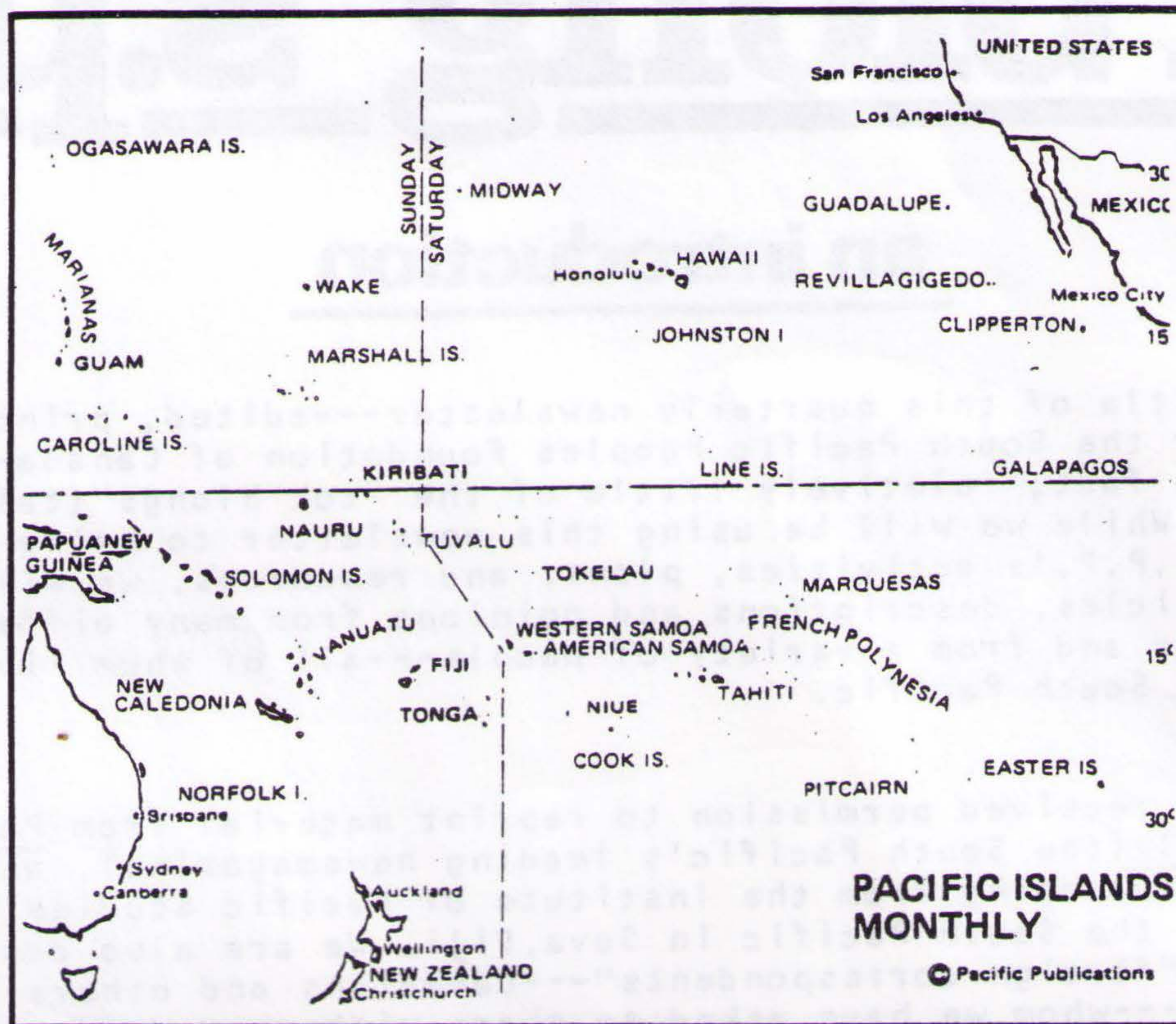
Readers' comments, suggestions, ideas and submissions concerning S.P.P.F.'s programs or this newsletter are most welcome.

Through this newsletter we hope to expose you to a variety of feelings, opinions and questions relating to the South Pacific---some you may enjoy; others perhaps not---we hope all will leave you thinking.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of S.P.P.F., but rather, those of the authors. S.P.P.F. hopes that this newsletter will increase Canadian awareness of the island nations and peoples of the South Pacific, and stimulate a greater appreciation of the needs, desires, and realities of these, our Pacific neighbours.

This newsletter is provided free of charge to all S.P.P.F. supporting members. Non-government organizations may indicate their desire to receive the newsletter on a reciprocal basis(yours for ours). Individuals unable to afford a membership but wishing the newsletter should inform us---you can likely assist us in some fashion in exchange.

Please, Please, provide us with feedback on this newsletter. And send us interesting articles about the Pacific Islands that you feel will be of interest to others.



SPPF

The South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada is a modest organisation with offices located in Victoria, B.C. (on a Pacific island). SPPF has been in existence since late 1975, and has facilitated the funding of several small development projects in the South Pacific. In May of 1981, SPPF was awarded a CIDA grant to undertake a public education program in Canada concerning realities in the South Pacific. In July of 1981, SPPF was able to hire a part-time executive director, Phil Esmonde, and to become a more active non-government organisation on the Canadian scene. A photographic display has been assembled and has received positive response from the public. Resources have been and continue to be gathered. Contacts in Canada and the South Pacific are being developed. Talks are being given to a variety of groups in B.C.. And, through an affiliation SPPF maintains with the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, projects for funding are being received and passed on to potential Canadian funders.

SPPF has also been developing a supporting membership amongst the many Canadians who have lived and worked in the South Pacific.

SPPF is a registered Canadian charity and non-profit organisation. Its continued strengthening and existence will depend upon people such as yourselves. We can use your assistance in many ways. If you have been living and working in the South Pacific, perhaps you are willing to talk to others about your experience? We can use people across Canada willing to pass out our brochures. We can use people willing to raise funds on our behalf. We can use people willing to show a movie in their neighbourhood. We can use individual supporting members. ARE YOU INTERESTED ?

SELF-RELIANCE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN VANUATU?

By Len Garae

The term « self-reliance » has been misused too often for the ordinary people to realise what it means. There is little difference between the term « Independence » and « self-reliance ».

When we talk about « self-reliance » in Vanuatu, we mean that we use our own resources which are available in our country to meet and satisfy our needs. The former means that we do not depend on other people but ourselves, to do things as far as possible.

One hears the term « self-reliance » and « economic independence » in political debates and on the media. One of the Vanuatu Government's aims is for the country to achieve « economic independence » by 1991. This means that we must now start improving and boosting our agricultural production, forestry, cattle and so on, to meet our demands in ten years time.

It also means that we will no longer import from either Australia or New Zealand garden crops which can be grown in Vanuatu.

Mrs Grace Molisa who is the Second Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office, is also concerned about the usage of the term « self-reliance ». She emphasises the need to understand and accept « changes » as the country strives to achieve self-reliance and economic independence.

There will be Political, social and cultural changes in order for the country to achieve these aims. Village Chiefs and other Big Men in Vanuatu may hesitate or stop their people from taking part in schemes which they regard as « threats » to their individual and traditional leadership code or their traditional life patterns in the village.

« Change often means conflict and is always a threat to some interest. Any talk of change always brings opposition and conflicting opinions, you cannot have change and have complete sameness » says Mrs Molisa.

She recalls the fact that the whole of our history has been a process of change; i.e., threat and conflict all the way.

Perhaps you are just about to do something and are told, « Oh, that is against our custom ». Mrs Molisa feels that this is a very ready excuse and a very ready answer.

Before the coming of the whiteman and our coming-in-touch with the outside world, our forefathers were already independent and self-reliant. Whiteman had his motor-driven boats, we had our paddle-driven canoes. While he had metal axes, we had stone axes.

Gradually as we became more aware of the outside world and its technology, we began to disregard our traditional products for the whiteman's. We became less and less self-reliant and independent.

Our customs started changing. The introduction of Christianity excluded our traditional Gods, this was crucial to the central point of custom. Our religions were threatened; our religions changed.

Our forefathers had a very good system of education - it was continuing education or education for life, but it was changed. We now go to formal education in pursuit of paper qualifications which end with our exams and our certificates if we pass.

Now that we are politically independent, we are re-examining all the things that we have, and we are redirecting our attention to our Education System. What are we doing?

« We want to acquire appropriate education for appropriate technology to

provide for the needs of all the people in this country. What we are doing is, we are trying to go back to our forefathers' education system where they were educated for life instead

of certificates from overseas », Mrs Molisa sums it up.

Economic Independence will be achieved through self-reliance, and self-reliance will be achieved only if we fully utilise our resources in Vanuatu. Vanuatu's most important resource is its people. (Tam-Tam will carry an article on « Human Resource » later).

Raymond C. Anderson, Canadian high commissioner to Vanuatu, in August officially opened a new \$A50 000 fisheries and Marine School in Port-Vila which was paid for by the Canadian Government. The school is situated at the former French Wharf.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vanuatu's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, **Sethy Regenvanu** said the republic had a land area of 14 250 square kilometres. When the country's 200-miles exclusive economic zone came into force, its total area would become 24 500 nautical square miles. Of this area, 80% is water.

'We depend on water as much as we depend on land for our food, and this will continue to be so in the future,' he said.

The minister pointed out that before the introduction of air travel, Ni-Vanuatu were seafarers, and seafaring would continue to be their main means of travel.

The new school would help the government to maintain a high standard of seafaring skills, through proper training, the minister said.

FROM: PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY
OCT '81

The Nauru Post, reporting a flight from Melbourne to Nauru in an Air Nauru aircraft

The local padre, returning from a goodwill mission, cautiously uncovered his lunch tray and noticed an Ansett serviette, a TAA the friendly way plastic bag with utensils inside, the utensils themselves stamped Alitalia, some JAL sugar and an Air Nauru towellette. He remarked 'This is truly an international airline'.

Tonga report

On March 3/4, 1982, Cyclone Isaac swept through the Tonga islands, southeast of Fiji, causing serious damage. The following is a partial situation report provided by the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation, and dated March 9th.

SITUATION SERIOUS REQUIRING RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

MEASURES FOR THE IMMEDIATE, INTERMEDIATE AND LONGER-TERM COVERING ALL ISLAND GROUPS WHICH WERE STRUCK BY CYCLONE AT A FORCE OF 100 KNOTS. TOTAL POPULATION WAS AFFECTED. SO FAR 5 DEATHS REPORTED. MATERIAL DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT 20 MILLION DOLLARS, OF WHICH 11.75 MILLION FOR BUILDINGS AND 8.7 MILLION FOR CROPS.:

CROPS BOTH FOR EXPORT AND LOCAL CONSUMPTION WERE DEVASTATED THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM. FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF CROP DAMAGE::

100 PERCENT OF COCONUT CROP FOR EXPORT LOST AND 50 PERCENT COCONUT CROP FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. ADDITIONAL CROP LOSSES WERE::

90 PERCENT - BANANAS
100 PERCENT - BREADFRUIT
35 PERCENT - VANILLA
60 PERCENT - MANIOKE
50 PERCENT - YAMS
40 PERCENT - KUMALA
30 PERCENT - TARO

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT COPRA EXPORTS WILL BE HALTED FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS.

IT IS EVIDENT THAT FOOD SHORTAGES WILL BE A MAJOR PROBLEM SHORTLY. DISLODGED BREADFRUIT, COCONUTS AND BANANAS ADEQUATE FOR ONLY 2-3 WEEKS DUE PERISHABLE NATURE. DEFICIT OF MATURE ROOT CROPS FOR HARVESTING WILL CAUSE SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES AFTER END OF MARCH AND IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS ARE ESSENTIAL TO MAKE UP BALANCE FROM 1 ST APRIL. RELIEF OPERATION TO PROVIDE FOOD EXPECTED TO BE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS.

HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE BEING CONTAINED AT PRESENT BUT SERIOUS SHORTAGES OF CLEAN WATER SUPPLIES (DUE RAINWATER ENTRAPMENT SYSTEMS BEING GREATLY REDUCED) MAY RESULT IN DEPENDENCE ON POLLUTED/STAGNANT OR SALINE WATER. THIS COULD RESULT IN INCREASED DYSENTERY, OTHER WATER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND DENGUE FEVER.

— Our Response —

Our partner agency, the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, has worked closely with, and helped develop, a womens network which has been trained, and has built 7,000 shower/toilet, and kitchen facilities. This network is in place in the outer islands which were hit the hardest. Utilizing local labour and materials, both a shower/toilet and a kitchen unit can be built for \$200 (Canadian). Given the prime importance that sanitary cooking, washing and toilet facilities be re-built to prevent serious health problems after the devastation, S.P.P.F. will be trying to raise funds to help in the re-building of these facilities, and to work toward the long-term rehabilitation needs in Tonga. We will be approaching the various national Church groups for assistance, as well as the rehabilitation fund held by CIDA.

If you, your church, your club, etc. would like to help in this effort, we would welcome your assistance. We can provide further information if you wish to write. If you have enough information, and wish to donate, please make cheques out to S.P.P.F. Tonga Fund.

Selection of the neediest families to receive the units will be achieved by having the women's groups (each having an elected President, secretary and treasurer) nominate those families in their villages whose homes have been totally destroyed.

Unless a clean environment for cooking, eating and a complimenting toilet/shower facility is given top priority, the health and nutritional status of the community will rapidly decline.

LEX

Western Union

Canada offers industrial co-operation programme

Canadian funds are available for feasibility studies of proposed import-replacement industries. It is also possible to arrange business training of Papua New Guineans in Canada, and hire Canadian consultants to work in PNG.

The Director-General of the International Co-operation Programme of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Mr Garrett Lambert, said these during his recent visit to PNG. CIDA administers Canada's overseas aid activities.

Mr Lambert said his aid budget this year is 1.6 billion Canadian dollars (about K930 million), but much of this will be spent on traditional recipients of Canadian aid. He explained that his visit was to examine the possibilities of providing Canadian aid to PNG's developing industrial sector and that one or two likely projects have been identified.

"Aid could be in the form of joint ventures with Canadian companies supplying technical and management expertise and some capital. Canadian

companies could also provide licencing agreements, co-production arrangements, technical co-operation and technology transfer," he explained.

Mr Lambert pointed out that this is the first time the Industrial Co-operation Programme has turned its attention to the South Pacific. Other CIDA aid programmes, however, such as the Canadian Executive Service Overseas and Canadian University Service Overseas have been operating in PNG for some years.

Mr Lambert added that he expects CIDA officers to visit PNG regularly to offer assistance to local businesses and industries.

FROM: "Hiri" FEB '82

Forum's 'in-principle' support for fund to help smaller countries

An extensive evaluation report commissioned by the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) says that a regional development bank is not needed in the Pacific Islands 'at this time', but there is need for a Pacific Islands Fund to help smaller islands without access to larger financial institutions.

The report proposes that such a fund be established with the help of the Special Fund of the Organisation of Petrol-Exporting Countries (OPEC), and with financial help probably available from Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, some European Economic Community countries, possibly one or more Association of South-east Asian Nations, (ASEAN) countries, and from Japan.

The report was prepared for the SPC and SPEC by Rodney Cole, of the Development Studies Centre of the Australian National University, and Graeme Thompson, chief economist of the New Zealand Planning Council, after visiting most of the Pacific states between May and early July this year.

The South Pacific Forum session in Port-Vila in August accepted it in principle and has asked for detailed reactions from the various governments for a final decision at next year's forum meeting in Tuvalu.

The report says that because of their small size and distance from large markets or population centres, the Pacific Islands have special difficulties for development and a need for substantial external assistance.

They have been receiving substantial assistance which will continue and possibly increase, but significant gaps exist, especially in the needs of the smaller and more vulnerable island states.

A fund controlled by the islanders themselves would meet capital requirements without involving the smaller islands in the costs associated with

World Bank of Asian Development Bank membership. Such a fund would also tap new sources of finance and thus avoid duplication or conflict with existing bilateral and multilateral aid arrangements.

The Pacific Islands Fund would offer the following services:

- Special loans: For new production, energy development, and short-term balance of payments or budgetary support.

- Technical services: Support for the Pacific Regional Advisory Service if established, specialist advice not elsewhere available, and a development information service.

- Price stabilisation: A depository and account for the regional copra stabilisation/support scheme now being examined, and any other commodity price support arrangement.

- Disaster relief: To administer relief funds should the Forum expand the provisions of the existing fund now managed by SPEC.

- Support for remote islands: Operating assistance in transport and communications to maintain vital social and economic links with small island countries, and island services within larger countries.

- Guarantee facility: To support borrowing by regional organisations and the smaller national development institutions.

- Research: To support applied research into particular regional issues.

The report proposes that the Pacific Islands Fund be constituted as a set of accounts

(special loans, technical services, etc.) to make its purposes plain. Each account would be separately administered. About \$A10 million would be required to get the fund going.

Fund membership would be free, and through charter, and be open to all developing island countries and territories of the region.

It would be controlled by a board comprising a director appointed by each charter member, and the secretary-general of the SPC and director of SPEC as ex-officio members. The board would meet annually.

Implementation of fund policies would be done by an executive comprising the board chairman, three other board members, and nominees of the SPC and SPEC. The executive might meet three or four times annually, and there would be an administrator appointed, with accountant and secretary, for the administrative work.

Good Life or Life of Goods?

by George Kent

Soon after World War II, development efforts focused on the achievement of rapid economic growth. The motivation for striving for economic growth was not originally to alleviate poverty, but rather to achieve rapid industrialization.

The idea that economic growth ought to be pursued chiefly for the purpose of reducing poverty did not arise until later, and did not reach its height until the 1970s.

By the mid-1970s, the mainstream argument—that economic growth is the chief instrument, if not the very embodiment of development—was discredited. Economic growth was widespread, but no clear linkage could be found between growth and the alleviation of poverty.

Thinking on development evolved through the 1970s, but the emphasis remained on the material aspects of development, on life support systems rather than life itself. Everyone knew there were other, non-material dimensions of development of greater importance, but hardly anyone could come to grips with them.

There were a few, however, like Paulo Freire and Johan Galtung, who came to argue that development should be understood as involving a transformation of consciousness. Specifically, the development of individuals and communities involves their changing from seeing themselves as victims of circumstances to seeing themselves as somehow in control of their own worlds.

As argued so clearly by Erich Fromm and others, development should be understood as a condition of being, not of having. The problem is not simply to find new and different ways of providing material goods. The issue is not so much the external stimuli as the internal life by which we respond to stimuli. In the transformed consciousness that is still only barely recognized, we are likely to consume less, but it will not be a matter of great sacrifice. Instead, those material objects which had preoccupied us will no longer

matter very much.

The major new sources of satisfaction will include old ones that had always been around us, such as religious and social experiences. Their newness will lie in their being more clearly recognized and appreciated. In newer understandings of development, material goods are likely to be downplayed, and social and spiritual values are likely to have greatly renewed importance. No single formulation of what constitutes the objective of development will prevail, but instead there will be a new accommodation of diversity of purpose.

While specific standardized outcomes of development should not be prescribed, it is useful to suggest how development might be understood in terms of process. I support the formulation, proposed by Frances Moore Lappe and Joe Collins in *Food First*, that "development is the process of people taking charge of their lives." To develop is to gain increasing power to define, to analyze, and to solve one's own problems. To develop means to gain power, not necessarily over others, but over oneself, and with others.

Development does mean growth, but not in the simplistic sense that some index becomes larger. A nation does not become increasingly developed just because its GNP grows, any more than a child can be said to be developing simply because he or she grows taller. Rather, development means growth in the sense of transcending limits. To develop is to be able to do something tomorrow that you were not able to do yesterday.

The proper test of any development program, any assistance program, any welfare program, even any educational program, then, is whether it is strengthening or weakening. A people's obtaining revenue from licensing others to fish or mine or log its resources is not development, but learning to fish or mine or log is. Following other people's plans does not constitute development, but formulating one's own plans does. If economic growth is achieved at the price of subordinating one's interests to those of outside investors or trading partners, that growth may work against true development.

With a bang and a whisper

Marie-Thérèse & Bengt Danielsson

**POSTMARK
PAPEETE**



If the mass media had not told us, nobody would have believed that the suave gentleman in the dark, double-breasted suit who stepped out of a French Special Air Force DC-8 at Papeete airport on July 31 was a representative of the new socialist government swept to power on a radical programme of far-reaching social and economic reforms. But in fact he was the new French Minister for Defence Charles Hernu, come out to inspect the nuclear base at Moruroa.

Except for the fact that he sported a thin beard, he and the numerous Gaullist ministers who had preceded him were as alike as two peas in a pod. The local reception committee, too, looked very familiar for the very good reason that it consisted of the same old guard of politicians and businessmen who have always prospered under the existing colonial and capitalist system. Incidentally, most of them had less than two months before ardently supported Mitterrand's right-wing opponents, Chirac and Giscard, in the presidential elections. But here they were again on the tarmac, seemingly very little embarrassed by their 180-degree turn-around. As for the dancers, musicians and beauty queens, supposedly symbolising the friendly *aroha* spirit of the islands, they smiled as happily as they always do when they are paid well for their services.

Not unexpectedly, the new defence minister also spoke like his Gaullist predecessors, although in a somewhat more rambling and befuddled manner. Thus, at a special press conference, he lost no time in announcing that the nuclear tests were to continue. At Moruroa. Indefinitely. When a reporter asked whether there was any truth in the persistent rumour that the Kerguelen islands in the Indian Ocean were being

considered as a more suitable testing ground than the much battered atoll, Hernu literally exploded, declaring that the rumour was so silly that it was not worth answering the question. Everybody is perfectly happy with Moruroa, he added. 'Even the Polynesian people?' asked an incredulous reporter. Hernu took a deep breath and dropped an even bigger bomb, for he said — and these were his exact words:

'The people of Polynesia have already expressed their approval in what amounts virtually to a popular referendum, for since I took over as defence minister, I have received thousands of letters from French Polynesia, all in favour of continued nuclear testing at Moruroa.'

This was, of course, impossible to believe. Polynesians never write to their ministers, and the few letters they do send to the local newspapers are as a rule strongly critical of the nuclear tests. One of the authors of this article, Marie-Thérèse, publicly challenged Hernu to produce these pro-nuclear letters, or at least to provide some more information about this unique 'mail order referendum'. Were the letter-writers really all Polynesians? Or were they perchance mostly French expatriates, making a lot of money out of the bomb? Or were they simply reactionary Frenchmen back home who equate French honour and glory with the bomb? The only answer Hernu cared to furnish was extremely evasive. He claimed that letters received by his ministry were 'confidential documents'.

It should perhaps be recalled that the number of voters in French Polynesia is more than 18 000. So even in the unlikely event that a few thousand Polynesians, in an unprecedented burst of patriotic fervour, did write to the minister for defence, this can hardly be considered a scientifically and democratically valid method of assessing public opinion.

The radioactive pollution of the Pacific islands and islanders resulting from the dozen or so tests made every year since 1966 (with one exception, 1969), was, of course, too burning a subject not to be touched upon. Hernu revealed that several local political and civic leaders had expressed concern about the terrible accidents which occurred at Moruroa in 1979 (PIM May 1980 p28) and which resulted in 1) the death or serious injury of half a dozen technicians, 2) the release of vast amounts of plutonium, whose deadly poisonous effect will be felt for the next 24 000 years, and 3) the prying loose of such an enormous chunk of the outer wall of the atoll that it caused a tidal wave capable of destroying buildings on islands hundreds of kilometres from Moruroa.

As soon as the 30 members of the Territorial Assembly of French Polynesia learnt from unofficial sources what had happened, they unanimously adopted a resolution, on August 18, 1979, asking for 1) the setting up of a local commission of inquiry to look into this and other accidents, and 2) the immediate despatch of a group of impartial French and foreign civilian scientists to study the radioactive pollution of man and environment in French Polynesia. The government of Giscard d'Estaing never took any action to comply with these requests.

This was definitely a matter, said Hernu, before flying off to



Charles Hernu (left), French Minister for Defence, meets French ex-servicemen in Tahiti during his visit to the South Pacific. — Picture by *La Dépêche de Tahiti*.

Moruroa, on which the new government of France was going to act in a completely different, open and frank manner. To use his own words: 'The press must be informed about security problems. If there is an accident, it is better to let the truth be known than to let all sorts of rumours spread. Nothing must be hidden that affects the health of the population.' He even added: 'When New Zealand and Australia ask us for information about these problems, we shall supply it.' For those who wish to take the minister up on this humane and generous offer, the address is: Ministère de la Défense, 14, rue Saint-Dominique, Paris 75007.

Less than a week after minister Hernu had flown home in the grand style of an Arab oil sheik, the commanding CEP admiral in French Polynesia faithfully carried out his new instructions. We were certainly not the only ones who were jolted when we read in our morning paper the following pioneering efforts in the field of military-civilian public relations: 'Due to strong westerly winds experienced at Moruroa, some of the nuclear waste left by the atmospheric explosions made before 1975, may have crossed the lagoon to the eastern side of the atoll. In order to avoid all risks, access to the beach in the inhabited area has temporarily been forbidden, while the necessary checks are being made.'

Of course, the communiqué raised more questions than it answered. In the first place, the existence of nuclear waste in any form at Moruroa has always been vehemently denied by the organisers of the tests, at present headed by the admiral who issued the communiqué. If now nuclear waste has suddenly been discovered, we would like to hear what the proofs are that it actually dates from the pre-1975 period. And how did the waste cross the lagoon, since it cannot float? It seems most likely that what is labelled pre-1975 waste has been confused with the plutonium waste from the 1979-accident which, according to the minutes of the debate that took place in the territorial assembly at the time, was actually mixed with all sorts of debris and could therefore very well have floated across the lagoon from the western portion of the reef where it was dumped. When questions like this were asked in the past, they were consistently ignored. So it is certainly a great relief to know that with the new regime frank answers will be quickly forthcoming.

An equally important subject upon which Hernu touched only very lightly during his stay in the islands, were the 'studies and experiments' carried out with a view to a French neutron bomb. These have been going on over the past three years, presumably quite often at Moruroa. All he was willing to say was that the research was to be continued. But admittedly, after the American decision, on Hiroshima Day, to mass-produce this weapon, it was certainly the wrong time to evoke the whole ugly subject.

Will the firm determination of the new French president to keep Moruroa as a nuclear testing ground make a sham of the promises made before, during and after his election campaign, to apply to the last French overseas territories the noble principle of *auto-détermination*? The man supposed to know the answer to this question is, of course, the minister for these territories, Henri Emmanuelli, who arrived only a week after Henru's departure, as an ordinary passenger on a regular flight from Fiji. He, too, had the polished look of all his Gaullist predecessors and was therefore quickly clasped to the bosom of the same old guard reception committee, by now even more warmly pro-socialist. His ministry, after all, has the ultimate say in all money matters affecting French Polynesia. The only new face to appear was that of an expatriate Frenchman, surrounded by a few local friends, who had all suddenly discovered that they had always been socialists at heart. To Emmanuelli's credit it must be said that he quite rudely told them that he did not need any generals without troops.

It soon became evident that the minister's very sensible



'H? As in Hernu?' 'And as in horror, holocaust, hecatomb and Hiroshima.' — Cartoon comment from *Le Canard Enchaîné*.

attitude was: I shall wait and see. Or rather, I shall see the sights first and then wait for the outcome of the territorial elections to be held early next year which in all likelihood will sweep out the old guard. Consequently, Emmanuelli undertook a gruelling but perfectly futile trip that in six days took him around Tahiti and then to the Leeward and the Tuamotu islands, with countless stops at various schools, dispensaries, town halls, museums, solar installations, factories, slums, markets and hotels, solely in order to listen to speeches, complaints and requests, and to watch dances, eat meals and see canoe races. The only noticeable innovation was the total absence of the popular 'flower girls' who, during ministerial visits in the past, used to embellish most official receptions, and who, to tell the sad truth, often tempted elderly and portly civil servants and politicians to behave in a most undignified fashion.

Throughout his ordeal, Emmanuelli kept smiling in the most engaging manner and rarely talked for more than five minutes at a time, in a pleasantly uninteresting manner. Not even when, on the last day of his stay, he made his only full-length political speech, in the packed Territorial Assembly (behind a socialist-red bouquet of roses, thoughtfully provided by the House) did he have much to say. His greatest achievement was, in fact, that he almost scared some of his hosts out of their wits by casually suggesting that it was time to introduce income tax, instead of going on forever begging the mother country for money. But what it all boiled down to in the end was a renewed promise to apply the noble principle of *auto-détermination* in a much toned down form: a special committee of local politicians and French officials will, over the next four or five months, study at a leisurely pace the need for a revision of the present constitution governing French Polynesia.

Still today nobody is quite sure how Mitterrand's victory will affect our lives. But an indication that the changes may be few and slow appeared perhaps during Emmanuelli's visit, even if it was not much noticed. We refer to the quite extraordinary fact that the leaders of the only genuine popular, socialist party in the islands, *la mana te nunaa*, shunned the minister like the plague, and in turn were totally ignored by him. — Marie-Thérèse and Bengt Danielsson.

A LETTER

.....from Mr. Werner Sukstorf, a Canadian with CUSO in Papua New Guinea. (The original letter is here excerpted due to space.)

" I am pleased to hear of the existance of SPPF. In the powerstruggle of the big superpowers, the voice of the small democratic nations of the Pacific is but a faint whisper; and there is a need for an organisation like yours to bring their plight before the public. The days of the colonial empires may be past, but the big multinationals have taken over where these left off. Trade and commerce in PNG are totally dominated by the Australian companies like Steamships, Carpenters and Burns Philp.

" A crass example of exploitation is taking place right at our doorstep in the Popondetta area, where a lumber company called Kumusi Timber is cutting down the rainforest. By removing only the choice logs, they are not only laying waste to the rest of the forest, but also destroying the habitat of the giant Alexandria Birdwing. It borders on crime when you consider that this area around Popondetta is the only place on earth that this beautiful butterfly can be found. The logs from this operation are being shipped to New Zealand without even the minimum of processing in this country.

" My work as a CUSO volunteer consists of teaching general cattle management, and more specifically, training PNG nationals in slaughtering, cutting and handling of beef.

" The Musa Valley is not suited for plantation crops like coffee or rubber, and cattle-raising fits pretty well with the traditional way of life here. The Yareba people of this district have always been more hunters than cultivators.

" A number of large breeding ranches have been established here with professional managers. The traditional landholders pooled their land and are shareholders of the companies formed. These ranches are self-contained units, with slaughtering, processing facilities and access to city markets via their own airstrip. Small holders in the surrounding areas have the option of buying weaner steers to graze on their village plots for two years, and then either sell them back to the company, or have them slaughtered and shipped to Port Moresby by paying the expenses.

" The company (I am working with) owns about 3000 head of cattle and thirty horses. The cattle were shipped by barge across the Solomon Sea to a beach called Pongani. From here we walked the cattle for six days 100 miles across mountains, through swamps and rainforest, crossing rivers and plains to the Musa Valley.

" It is a fascinating learning experience living in a completely different culture. The most urgent need in PNG as I see it is for topnotch local management personnel and qualified tradesmen of all descriptions.

" It is a wonderful feeling to see a new nation grow and stand on its own feet. In a few years, Safia has grown from a forgotten patrol post into a thriving community. We have our own tradestore, school and a modern medical centre.



TONGAN ARTIST TO VISIT CANADA

S.P.P.F. and IDEA (the Institute for Development Education through the Arts) are jointly sponsoring the September/October visit to B.C. and Alberta of Mrs. Sinisia Taumoepeau of Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Mrs. Taumoepeau is a painter and a weaver. While in Canada she will have a display of her tapa paintings and pandanus weavings, as well as be available for workshops with Canadian artists and students. Sinisia's trip will be equally split between B.C. and Alberta, and strong efforts will be made to have her visit several of the smaller areas in the two provinces. Work is currently going into developing an itinerary for the trip. More information is available through SPPF.



excerpts

..... from a letter from Dr. Graham Conway, a Canadian working on Eastern Caroline Island in Micronesia:

" I have been here for over two years having left a lucrative practice in Courtenay, B.C. for an ill-paid but never boring life in Ponape with opportunity for travel and teaching throughout Micronesia.

" I have been very involved in teaching Health Assistants in rural dispensaries and on outer atolls and teaching anaesthesia and pediatrics to medical officers in district centers.

" There are many urgent public health programs to deal with (eg: TB, Leprosy, sanitation) and my "general practice" ranges from neurosurgery to administration and public health so I have become quite knowledgeable on health care delivery in Micronesia-- including my share of house calls in the jungle"

Resources

SPPF has the following audio-visual resources available for use in Canada. If you are interested in using any, please get in touch with us to discuss terms.

"No road over Iriri land" a 23mt. slide/tape from Australia showing two styles of development on a small island in the Solomons--one by the multi-national company Levers, and the other by a small village.

We are expecting a movie on Vanuatu any day, and also checking into a movie on the South Pacific Festival of the Arts held in PNG in 1980.

" Marshall's : America's Radioactive trust", a 118 slide show put out by the Micronesian Support Committee concerning the nuclear history of Micronesia at the U.S.'s hands.

" Yumi Yet " a two reel 16mm film showing the lead-up to independence in Papua New Guinea, as well as the independence ceremonies. 1975.

"In one country" another film on Papua New Guinea--this one from 1974--and depicting quite well the contrast between traditional methods and new methods in PNG. (People recently returned from PNG say the movie is still very timely).

South Pacific paradise lost



Scattered across 10½ million square miles of ocean wilderness, the 20 small island countries and territories of the South Pacific are vacant specks on most maps of the globe.

Many are independent states, some are members of the United Nations, and all are well qualified as members of an economically and socially disadvantaged Third World. And yet their size, and a combined population of only four and a half million people, make them blind spots in the consciousness of a world accustomed to a grand scale of things.

The storms and pestilence of tiny nations like Tokelau (1,600 people), Tuvalu (6,000) and Niue (3,600) pale beside the catastrophic proportions of similar events in India.

Their increasing malnutrition does not command the attention of a Bangladesh, or the Sahelian states of Africa. Their diseases tend to be debilitating rather than fatal and when an entire

South Pacific nation is cut off from major food imports for weeks at a time, it is assumed the people will simply go out and catch more fish.

The fact that most island communities are no longer self-sufficient seems to have been lost in tourist images of sunshine and paradise. The fact is that many have overfished their reef waters, lack the initiative or boats and equipment to operate further from shore and have become hooked on expensive tinned tuna and other food imports from Australia and Japan.

While the international community has been busy carving the ocean into zones of strategic or economic interest to others, little has been done to identify the region in terms of its people and the context into which Western colonial development has thrust them. It is increasingly difficult to find an island village which has not been affected by Western ways.

Education has lifted the expectations of the young, and the trappings of supermarket economies have sparked an exodus from the rural areas to towns and capitals in search of cash income.

Cash cropping and wages are destroying the independence of families and communities which fed and clothed themselves for generations. Junk foods have become standard fare in most towns and doctors now report an alarming increase in diabetes from the use of refined sugar products, and an upsurge in metabolic disease which was previously thought exclusive to Western living.

Research indicates increasing malnutrition among children, particularly in urban areas where a little infant formula and milk tea is often substituted for breast feeding or traditional weaning mixes.

Imported tinned fish and processed fruit and vegetables are draining household budgets in countries capable of

PACIFIC PROTESTS NUCLEAR TESTING

The Government has lodged an official protest with France over continued nuclear testing at Moruroa Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, Mr Noel Levi, handed the protest letter, addressed to the French Foreign Minister, Mr Claude Cheysson, to the French Embassy in Port Moresby.

In the letter Mr Levi expressed 'concern and apprehension' over continued French nuclear tests in the Pacific, particularly in the light of recent reports that radioactive material has leaked into the Pacific Ocean from structural faults in the atoll caused by nuclear testing.

He said PNG and other Pacific countries were upset that the French Government continued to disregard the opposition of Pacific peoples to the nuclear testing programme.

"No doubt you are aware that it has been and will continue to be the policy of the Papua New Guinea Government to strongly oppose nuclear and other associated activities in the Pacific region. Papua New Guinea was a party to the resolutions passed by the South Pacific in August and the South Pacific Conference in October condemning nuclear activities in Pacific waters particularly those of your Government," Mr Levi explained.

producing fresh food at lower prices, and unemployment is swelling urban centres which report a corresponding increase in crime. In Fiji the population of towns and cities has grown from 33 per cent of the total to more than half in just seven years.

Agriculturalists express doubts about the carrying capacity of the islands. Although most countries have considerable reserves of uninhabited land, much of it is inaccessible and of limited arable potential, if in fact the people showed an inclination to work it.

National populations are showing a tendency toward doubling every 20 years and in countries like the Solomon Islands which had an extraordinarily prosperous 6.6 per cent annual average growth in Gross Domestic Product from 1973-1978, social services are floundering. The birth rate in the Solomons has reached 3.4 per cent (high by Asia standards) and after two years of independence the government is in the embarrassing position of having to step up its recruitment of expatriate doctors, teachers and administrators to service that growth.

In 1979 more than half the country's population was under 16 years of age and less than 60 per cent of those in the 7-14 age group were enrolled in primary schools. About 25 per cent of the 14 years olds did not go to school at all. Less than 10 per cent of the people can read English and only about 30 per cent can understand pidgin. The National Education Board administers about 300 primary schools through the islands but 30 per cent of the teachers are untrained and 20 per cent are only partly trained.

The public service has 2,800 available posts, but in 1979, 400 (14 per cent) were unfilled for want of higher education certificates.

As one senior administrator put it: "All our gains and all our available resources of skilled manpower could be eaten up just with the provision of

teachers and health workers. The economy is prospering but our social services are standing still. We can take a larger population, but we can't take it so fast."

Outward migration has become a vent for the frustrations of young people who have realized that their home economies will not support Western habits and countries like Tonga and Western Samoa, desperate to hold their skilled nationals, find themselves in a cleft stick. Those same nationals are among the countries' largest earners of foreign capital.

Exporting people

Their salaries, remitted from jobs in Australia, New Zealand and the United States total millions of dollars annually, making the export of people an indispensable feature of the national economies. It has been estimated that 25 per cent of the current population of Tonga has been to New Zealand on short term work permits, and estimates of the number of Samoans in California and Hawaii run as high as 100,000.

The declaration of 200 mile offshore economic zones last year opened exciting possibilities for all states to exploit their fisheries resources but economies of scale will demand unprecedented regional co-operation if all are to get a fair share from the ocean waters. The cost of fuelling just one pole and line tuna boat of 350 tonnes in 1977 was US\$109,581—more than the entire national fuel bill for countries like Tuvalu and Niue. And although many of the island states of the central and west Pacific had reason to believe they would draw substantial licence fees by allowing Japan, Korea, Taiwan and other distant-water fishing nations to take the risks for them, only a handful have had takers. Rising fuel costs and the unpredictability of locating migratory fish species, have made the busi-

ness far less attractive than it first appeared.

One of the ironies of the South Pacific is that so many countries with so much in common, should spend so little time sharing thoughts about their future.

Instead, they find that by sharing the same ocean, the same migratory fish species and similar markets for a common range of tropical exports, they are in constant competition. Attempts to regionalize through bodies like the South Pacific Commission (SPC), the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Economic Commission (SPEC) have had limited practical results. Planners cite breakdowns over seemingly petty national rivalries, personality clashes or jealousy that central and economically-advantaged states such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea or New Caledonia should get to host the bulk of regional conferences or commissions—something which has more to do with infrastructure and facilities than anything else.

Another handicap to dialogue is the size and cash poverty of the region. National economies of scale—the high cost of providing technology for so few people—have left all but the wealthiest colonial and former colonial outposts in a communications vacuum. There are few, if any, effective channels of public opinion. Newspapers are limited, vast sectors of the population cannot read and radio reception is patchy. Telephone connexions between some states might take two days or a week. Air services to some countries might offer a return seat every third day and shipping services, a berth every third week.

Air travel is expensive and countries with limited economies and populations in the tens of thousands and less, have neither the manpower nor the money to allow leaders to travel the extremities of a 10½ million square mile ocean to attend regular meetings.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

"As a sovereign and independent South Pacific nation, Papua New Guinea treasures the marine resources of the Pacific Ocean which constitute an important source of our livelihood as well as for our future generations. I am more than convinced that other South Pacific Forum countries hold similar views and all of us will not allow another country to imperil our livelihood or contaminate and endanger our environment and marine resources," he continued.

"My Cabinet colleagues and I have been deeply disturbed by recent reports of the developments as a result of your Government's nuclear testing programme on Moruroa Atoll... You will therefore appreciate that my colleagues and I feel that you should be made aware of the apprehension of my Government to the adverse effects of your Government's nuclear activities in the Pacific Ocean," Mr Levi added.

"In a very real sense, the small island countries of the South Pacific are living in a communications desert.

Meanwhile, the international aid community has found it relatively easy to overlook the beginnings of social breakdown in the region. The scale of similar problems elsewhere are infinitely greater and appear more urgent and deserving of their scarce resources.

Dr Arthur L. Dahl, Regional Ecological Adviser to the South Pacific Commission, warns that the region does not have time on its side.

"Islands, in a sense, face the same kinds of environmental problems as the rest of the world but in a microcosm, and they come to the limits of their environment even faster than the rest", he says.

"What kind of development can they afford to have on a small island where the soil is limited, where the water is limited, where the forest is limited and where the oceans are limited? They are forced to face that much sooner the fundamental questions which other parts of the world are not yet ready to confront in terms of changing their lifestyle; changing their patterns of development."

Impact of outsiders

In the minds of some, the developers have already gone too far. Dr Ropati Uili, Epidemiological Assistant to the South Pacific Commission and a native of Tokelau illustrates the hazards of increasing contact with the outside world: "A boat used to come to Tokelau from New Zealand a couple of times a year and soon after its departure the people would come down with flu or some other virus. The flu was not serious in itself, but when it involves everyone in a small community it's an epidemic. (Tokelau's three main islands have a combined population of about 1,600).

"About two years ago they started to get four and five boats a year, so instead of getting over the flu between boats, people had it all year round and suffered because they did not have immunity.

"From my point of view the people don't need the boat. They can survive without it. The boat brings petrol, but they have the wind in their sails and oars to take them where they want. The boat supplies a co-operative with soap and flour and tinned fish, but fresh fish is plentiful. It's about time for people like us to show them the fire before they fall into it.

"As a doctor I can see what's coming next—diabetes, hypertension and metabolic diseases which did not exist before. The changes are too sudden; we haven't developed the means to cope with these maladies."

Dr Uili believes countries like Fiji have gone too far to turn back the clock but that not everyone in the South Pacific has reached that point.

"I have seen that our ancestors coped with their surroundings and survived perfectly well", he says. "Everytime we tackle a problem today we create another problem. In the past, the simple nature of things only needed modification but every time we change the precious things of our ancestors we set off a chain reaction."

Dr Uili believes there should be a careful process of selection from the lifestyles of the West.

"We can use outside ideas in collaboration, but we must be observant", he says. "We have to look ahead for answers to new problems we might create... Our ancestors developed our islands in harmony with nature but our culture is disappearing with modern communication and Western development. Development to what?"

Ian Steele

Represents Press Foundation of AS (Depthnews) at U.N.

"ACT"

(a poem by Mildred Sope, teacher in Vanuatu, from Mana Journal of creative writing, 1977, South Pacific Creative Arts Society)

People of the earth
Where are you going
Fast
Faster
Faster yet
Where is the limit
To what end do we rush

Profound and wise
Words there are many
But
Of what worth are your words
What do they accomplish

I feel submerged
I can't breath
This mountain of words
Is the cause

Action
One word that can be said
Accomplish
Get it done
Reality we can
See

Feel
Touch
An end to the misery
Push away the mountain
Do

Act
Achieve
When do we start

ABOUT SOME SOURCES

TAM-TAM is the newspaper of the Government of Vanuatu

HIRI is the newspaper of the Government of Papua New Guinea

THE NEW PACIFIC is a monthly newsmagazine from Hawaii
(Box 25488, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825)

The article South Pacific Paradise Lost is from DEVELOPMENT FORUM

(published by the United Nations)

Some readers may be interested in the following groups which are actively dealing in Pacific issues and developments

PACIFIC CONCERNS RESOURCE CENTER
P.O. BOX 27692
HONOLULU, HAWAII
USA 96827

A Pacific coordinating group for information on nuclear testing in the Pacific, nuclear dumping plans by Japan and the United States, and nuclear issues in general. The group also has various position papers and statements by Pacific Island leaders and governments. Write for a list of resources available.

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY
76 CLARENCE STREET
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
(GPO BOX 3408, SYDNEY 2001)

A monthly magazine covering political, social, economic and other issues in the South Pacific Islands. Provides excellent and extensive coverage.

THE INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC STUDIES
BOX 1168
SUVA, FIJI

Publishes a tremendous amount of literature covering the Pacific Islands, and one of the few sources of books written by Pacific Islanders themselves. Has a publications list available upon request.

MICRONESIA SUPPORT COMMITTEE
1212 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
HONOLULU, HAWAII
USA 96826

Publishes a regular bulletin with a concentration on the continuing negotiations between the United States and the islands of the U.S. Trust Territories, as the islands attempt to set up a new and freer relationship with the U.S.. Also very good on the effects of U.S. nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands.

QUESTIONS

.....looking for answers.

- 1) If you are not a supporting member of SPPF, would you like to continue to receive this newsletter? _____

If yes, please give name, address, etc.

- 2) Yes, I would like to become a supporting member of SPPF at:

\$25 year

\$50 year

\$75 year

\$100 year

(Please clip and send to SPPF, 303-620 View St., Victoria, B.C.)

charitable tax number: 0452177-09-27*

FROM:

TO: