

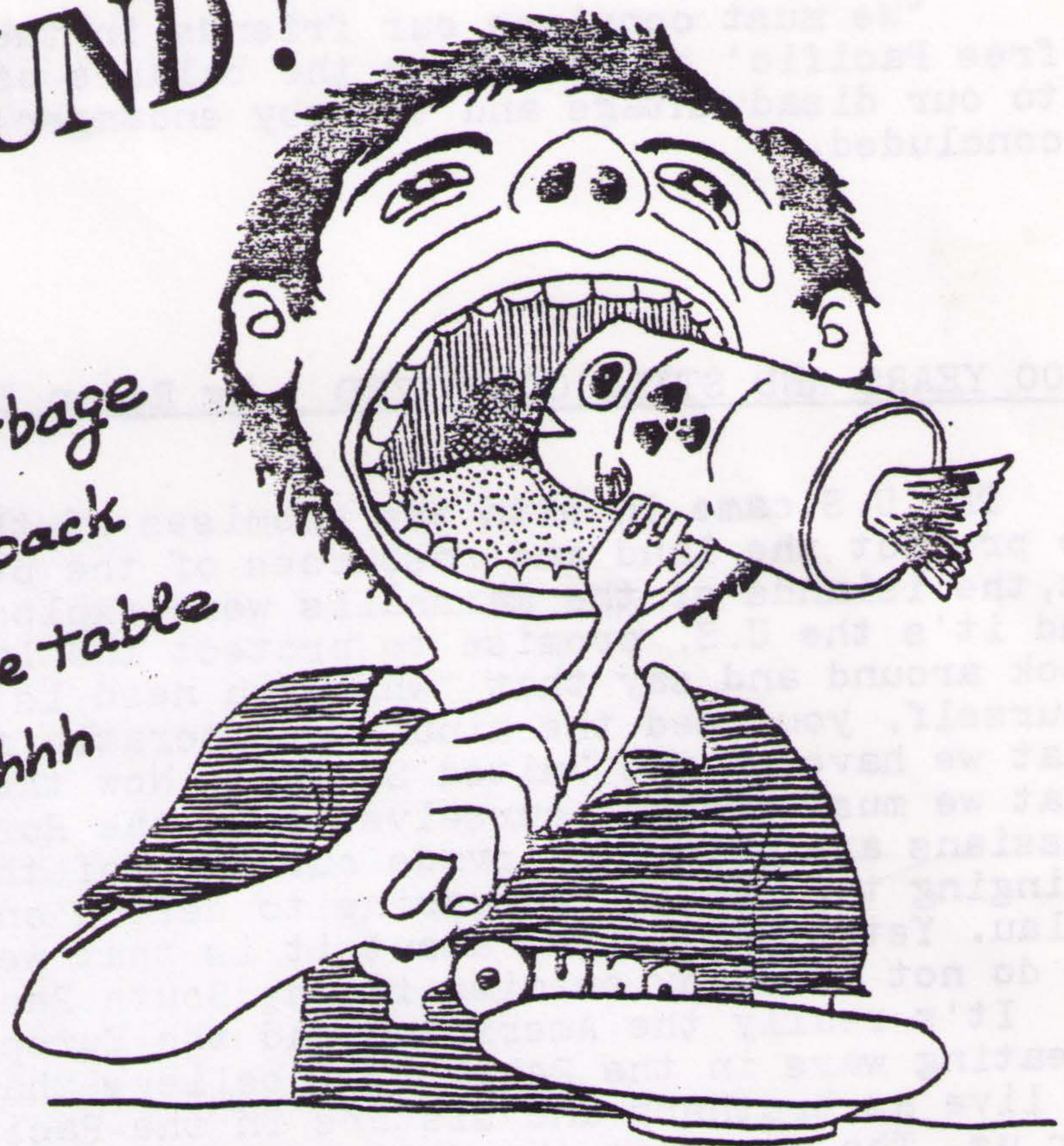
Tok Blong SPPF

SUMMER 1982

#2

DON'T MAKE
THE PACIFIC
A NUCLEAR DUMPING
GROUND!

*Dumped garbage
finally comes back
'round to the table
.... Ahhh*



The South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada is a not-for-profit registered Canadian charitable organization undertaking educational work in Canada and project support work in the South Pacific islands. We welcome donations to assist our work and can provide donors official receipts for income tax purposes (#0452177-09-28).

SPPF, 303-620 View Street, Victoria, B.C., Canada

V8W 1J6 (604) 381-4131

Nuclear-free Pacific ?

NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC MOVEMENT BIGGEST THREAT TO U.S. PACIFIC POLICY: BODDE

The growing nuclear free Pacific movement poses the biggest threat to United States Pacific policy, the former U.S. ambassador to Fiji told a Honolulu audience on February 10. "I am convinced" said William Bodde, "that the United States government must do everything possible to counter this movement.

"I have no doubt that many of the people active in the anti-nuclear movement in the South Pacific sincerely represent the widespread antipathy in the region toward the use of the Pacific as a testing or dumping ground. However, the nuclear-free Pacific concept is also being put forward by people who either do not understand the full implications of such a policy for American strategic interests or who do not wish to see the U.S. remain a military presence in the South Pacific.

"We must convince our friends in the region that a 'nuclear free Pacific' could change the balance of power with the Soviets to our disadvantage and thereby endanger world peace," Bodde concluded.

400 YEARS AND STILL COLONIZED ! by Roman Bedor.

The U.S. came in with the promises of the Trusteeship Agreement to protect the land and resources of the people. Before we knew it, the islands of the Marshalls were exploding into the air - and it's the U.S. promise to protect the land. The Americans look around and say that "what you need is freedom to express yourself, you need the kind of democratic form of government that we have in the United States." Now the U.S. is teaching us that we must protect ourselves from the Russians because the Russians are going to invade our part of the world. So they are bringing the Trident submarine to defend only 14,000 people in Belau. Yet, funny thing about it is that we do not have any enemies. We do not have any enemies in the South Pacific.

It's really the Americans and the Europeans that have been creating wars in the Pacific. I believe that as long as we continue to live as brothers and sisters in the Pacific, there is no war for us. The war that the United States is talking about is really the war of the people in the United States. During the second World War our home was being bombed, our relatives, our elder people died. It's their war, but we lost our life from it. And this is what they are trying to do to the Pacific now.

Excerpts from:

Micronesia Support Committee Bulletin
Vol. 6, #4, Winter, 1981.



ELEGANT WRECKAGE: Photogenic even in its ruined condition is this 100-year-old fale at Nukunuku, Tonga, the victim of Cyclone Isaac. Built of coconut timber with coconut rope lashings, the fale was used by Nukunuku's Christian Youth Movement for seminars and social gatherings. The movement's president, Paua Manu'atu (pictured), says the fale will be replaced, hopefully with a building of traditional design. Fund-raising has already started. Says Mr Manu'atu: "The fale was one of Tonga's oldest buildings, and we strengthened it last year to resist storms and earthquakes — but Asake was just too strong."

SPPF - UPDATE

SPPF has completed the first year of its public education programme, and has received further matching funding from CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) to continue this broad project.

The first year's concentration in this educational project was in fact very broad. Not only were we giving 31 public talks and displays on South Pacific realities, but we were also putting displays together (a display of artifacts and a 3 panel mounted photographic display on issue areas); contacting and opening communications with Canadians who have worked or are working in the South Pacific; contacting Pacific islanders both in the Pacific and in Canada; gathering audio visual resources for our and other agencies use (CUSO now uses three movies for its Ottawa orientations for people going to the South Pacific); starting a supporting membership (we currently have 25 paid supporting members to whom we are most grateful); put in much effort to raise funds for our own existance (SPPF raised \$7800 between July,1981 and July,1982, mostly through the generous assistance of a few individuals); and started the groundwork on many projects which will see their completion within the next year.

One of these is the bringing to British Columbia and Alberta of a painter and weaver from Tonga. Mrs. Sinisia Taumoepeau, who paints on tapa cloth and weaves with pandanus leaves, will be exhibiting her work, giving demonstrations, and holding workshops in which Canadians can participate. Sinisia will start the tour in B.C. on September 16,1982 , and will visit Victoria,Duncan,Nanaimo, Courtenay, Port Alberni, Ahouset, and Vancouver. She will start her tour of Alberta on October 4, visiting Edmonton,Calgary, and Banff, and finishing on October 15th. Anyone in B.C. wishing more information can phone/write SPPF in Victoria. For any in Alberta reading this newsletter, the contact is Anne Lambert, Alberta Arts Council, Edmonton. One of the most exciting parts of this tour will be Sinisia's visit to Ahouset,home of the Ahouset native indian band.

Another activity "sewn" during the last year is the organization of an educational tour to the South Pacific. The intent of the tour , titled "Beyond the looking glass",is to have twenty people come in direct contact with 'active' Pacific islanders in all fields, to visit villages and projects in the South Pacific, and to generally hear from islanders themselves some of the realities of their daily life, and the alternatives they are bringing to bear to deal with these realities. The tour will visit Tonga,

New Caledonia, Fiji, Western Samoa, and Vanuatu. The tour will be for June, 1983. If you are interested in this tour, please get in touch with SPPF.

A project recently completed is the printing of 14 island "Fact Sheets", which cover socio-economic, trade, and historical data, as well as some of the cultural aspects and development issues in each of the countries. We plan to get these out to members, to other organizations, and -- through travel agencies -- to the general public travelling to the South Pacific. For the latter, we hope the "Fact Sheets" will alert many of them to the situation beyond the Holiday Inn, and move them to find out more about daily life in the South Pacific. We also hope that some will become supporters of the educational and project work we are doing to allow Pacific islanders to more run their own lives.

On the project side, we are raising money for rehabilitation in Tonga following Cyclone Isaac which hit that country in March, 1982. (We would be happy to send you information if you can assist in your own area, or just wish to know more). We are also trying to facilitate the funding of the translation from English to Bislama of a history book on Vanuatu, which would make accessible to Ni-Vanuatu the first history book in their own language.

SPPF is also planning a major fundraiser for late 1982 or early 1983, and currently has a proposal in front of a Foundation for the carrying out of a three year student exchange between Canada and the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji; for a major cultural exchange which would hopefully see native Indian carvers, dancers and singers tour the South Pacific, and perhaps a dance troupe from Papua New Guinea visit Canada; and for the holding of two workshops in Canada in which active Pacific islanders would participate -- one would be on general development issue in the South Pacific, and the other on fisheries. Both would focus on current realities, and the opportunities for Canadian assistance, technical exchange, etc.

Further activities for the coming year include continued public talks and the showing of the photographic display; continued communication and idea sharing with the aim of increasing Canada's relationship and assistance to the South Pacific; and continued organizational strengthening.

Part of our own existence to make all these things happen relies on individuals who become supporting members and donate to our general programme. We hope you will consider assisting if you haven't already. For those who wish to know more about our activities over the last year, put \$1 in an envelope, ask us, and we'll gladly send you a copy of our nine page report which bares it all.

While our plans may be ambitious, we remain a modest group with one 2/3 paid Executive Director and paid part-time secretary. We also benefit from a small corp of helpful volunteers. It is our aim to become more solid over the next year -- we hope you can help us in this and other areas.

COMBINED SEABED SURVEY IS UNDERWAY

Australia, New Zealand, the United States and South Pacific island countries have begun a coordinated search for oil under the Pacific seabed. The geo-scientific survey involves two US research ships and more than 50 scientists from the partner countries. The survey, in seas around Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and US-owned Wake Island, is described as the most ambitious seabed search for oil, gas and minerals ever undertaken in the South Pacific.

Pacific Islands Monthly, June 1982

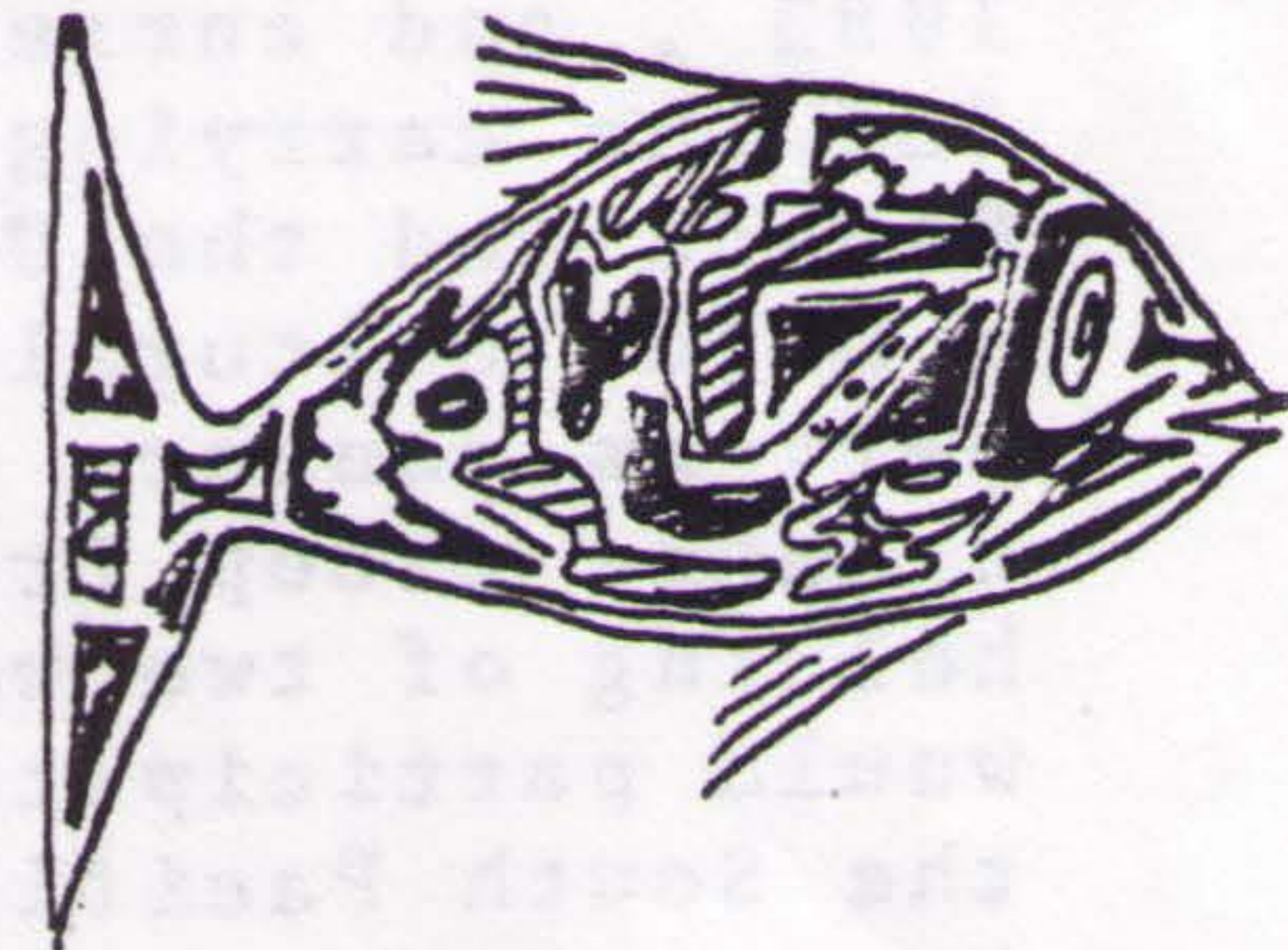
SOLAR LIGHTING FOR RURAL DWELLERS

The Fiji Government plans to buy 100 solar photovoltaic lighting sets consisting of photovoltaic panels, battery, voltage regulator or protector, fluorescent lights and associated fittings to form part of its rural electricity programme. The decision to buy the sets comes after successful experiments by the Ministry of Energy in solar energy with special application to rural lighting. Tests have established that the photovoltaic system offers tremendous potential and could substantially reduce lighting costs in remote areas.

Pacific Islands Monthly, June 1982

SUVA BLANKET

Suva at night is like the first sky,
Its colourful lights twinkle, capturing an eye.
Over the sea, white, yellow snakes wriggle along
feeling the dark breeze which cools the water.
Lights of all sorts seem to overwhelm me,
When I wink, they dart a smile,
When I'm in agony, they reflect hopefully,
In their beauty I lose myself, my worries.



But man-made destroyers mar this sky
Down the streets, the traffic eyes search my footsteps
Through blocked houses, through the blind crossings
They try to corner me, punch me unawares.
Death, real death storms in my brain
Its callings increase trying to split my conscience,
It eats through my guts; rules my whole world.
Death still reigns inside my alarm clock.

Under this sky, I think of escaping to darkness
leaving my yesterdays and tomorrows.
Slowly I stagger to my mat, for surely
Under my blanket reigns comfort and life.

Falaniko Tiputa



The Honourable S. Langi Kavaliku, Minister of Education, Works and Civil Aviation, Kingdom of Tonga

Dr. Kavaliku expressed his pleasure and honour that a Pacific Islander was given a chance to speak rather than others speaking about the Pacific Islands. He explained that the islands of the Pacific, numbering about 10,000 are divided at present into 21 political entities with a land area of about 550,000 square kilometres. If one assumes the 200 mile economic zone around the islands, the total land and sea area of the islands of the Pacific are approximately 30 million square kilometres. Total population is just over 5 million. Of the islands, Papua New Guinea accounts for 70% of the total land area and 65% of the total population. Except for four of the islands, all have very limited raw materials, small domestic markets, heavy reliance upon imports, face prohibitive transportation costs and are greatly affected by imported inflation. Average per capita income is about \$450 but there is great variation between them.

Dr. Kavaliku stated that we are living in a world where each nation is becoming more and more dependant on others, and generally the smaller the partner the more dependant and vulnerable that partner is. Interdependence is largely dependance, because nations' actions are not only dictated by indigenous issues but also by exogenous ones. Many things are beyond the nation's control, especially a very small nation.

The real issue for those in the islands, he suggested, is the nature and degree of dependance. Because of their smallness, fragility, degree of isolation and fragmentation in an interdependant world, because of their many common problems (including confrontation with outside influences) and because of their relative lack of resources, there is a belief that there must be strong co-operative efforts between these small island states in the Pacific. At the same time, they are aware that co-operation must extend to what is regarded as the Pacific Community as well as to other countries of the world.

For most of these island countries, Dr. Kavaliku stated, it is difficult to envisage the day when they will be self-sufficient or at least be economically viable. There is the need for increased investments and for joint ventures. Aid looms large as a major continuing contribution to assist the development of the Pacific Islands. Australia and New Zealand amongst the Pacific Countries, have been the stalwarts behind the independant countries.

He went on to state that, admittedly, the Pacific Islands are not of real importance to the industrialized countries. Even the proposed development of a Pacific Community largely ignores the tiny dots in the Pacific Ocean because the markets are small, resources limited, financial capacity is small, political clout insignificant and because they are of low value strategically. However, it is interesting to ponder the future when the island nations may control over 30 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean.

Dr. S. Langi Kavaliku, Minister of Education, Works and Civil Aviation (Tonga), "Pacific Interdependence: The Pacific Islands and the Pacific Community"

KIRIBATI

The country of Kiribati is comprised of mostly atolls, which are flat narrow strips of land barely rising fourteen feet above sea level. There are a total of thirty-seven islands, divided into three groups: The Gilberts Group, The Line Group and The Phoenix Group. Most of the islands of the Line and Phoenix Groups are uninhabited. The Gilberts Group therefore comprised the main population centre with South Tarawa being the location of the capital, Bairiki, and the port, Betio.

East to west Kiribati stretches for two thousand miles and north to south about six hundred miles, enclosing a total ocean area of some two million square miles with only two-hundred seventy-five square miles of dry land.

Boat travel within Kiribati is extremely difficult because of the sharp reef drop-off which provides no boat anchorage. Shipping facilities are infrequent and irregular. Most islands have airports however and service is provided at least once per week to each island at least in the Gilberts Group and Christmas Island by the Kiribati airline, Air Tungaru.

Until the year of independence, phosphate rock from Banaba (Ocean) Island was the main export and dollar earner. The phosphates were exhausted in 1979 and now the main earner for foreign dollars is copra. The potential for fish exporting is presently being planned and developed into an industry.

The mainstay of the Kiribati economy, however, is still subsistence on fish, coconuts, breadfruit, babai, and papaya. Rural villagers usually supply their relatives living on South Tarawa with local foodstuffs shipped in via boat, or airplane, in return for cash contributions for the villagers to purchase imported goods such as cooking utensils, fabric for clothing, cement for building and bicycles and motorbikes for transport. It is not an industrial trade, however, but more of a family/cultural tradition. The people on South Tarawa are the cash earners, working for the government and have little or no land from which to take food. On the other hand the villages have little cash earning potential except for copra.

Cash also comes into the country and the rural area from overseas remittances from Kiribati seamen. There is a government school to train merchant marines and the seamen are required to send a percentage of their earnings back to their families in Kiribati.

The 1978 census lists the population of Kiribati at 56,978. It is presently estimated at 58,512 with a 2.5% annual growth rate. The population breakdown is:

40.9% = 0-14 years
50.7% = 15-54 years
8.4% = over 54 years

The population centre is South Tarawa, a sixteen mile long strip of land not more than six hundred yards at its widest point. Thirty-two percent of the population or almost 18,000 people live on South Tarawa giving it a density of 2,502 people per square km.

Islanders give us a piece of their minds at Canberra seminar

Australia's Pacific 'imperialism'

By ALAN THORNHILL, of AAP

CANBERRA. — The soft voices of Pacific Islanders were heard very clearly in Canberra last week.

Vanuatu's Prime Minister, Father Walter Lini, said Australia must understand and accept the coming "Melanesian Renaissance" if its present close ties with Pacific Island states were to be maintained.

A freelance journalist from the tiny republic of Palau in the US trust territory of Micronesia, Mr Francisco Uludong, said he believed the US might be planning to base its new Trident nuclear submarines at Pauau — and he predicted local resistance to the idea.

An independent member of New Caledonia's Legislative Assembly, Jean Marie Tjibaou, appealed for Australia's diplomatic support for the cause of Melanesian independence from France.

But it was the general secretary of the Solomon Islands National Union of Workers, Mr Jose Tuhauku, who made the briefest — and probably most-pungent — speech at a two-day seminar in Canberra on Australia and the South Pacific.

Mr Tuhauku's appointed task was to introduce discussion on economic matters.

He called for order and said there would be three speakers — one from Australia's Trade Department, one

from the Pacific trader Burns Philp, and one from the University of the South Pacific.

"The discussion will be on Australia's economic relations with the Pacific, or more precisely Australian imperialism."

Mr Tuhauku's only concession was to smile as he said it.

The seminar was organised by the Centre for Continuing Education at the Australian National University and the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (Australia). Its aim was to allow Pacific Islanders to express their views on Australia's relationship with their countries.

Senior Pacific Island leaders including Fiji's Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, and the former Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, Mr Michael Somare, have been warning for years that Australia's (and New Zealand's) trade surpluses with Pacific Island states are far too big.

The metropolitan powers, as Australia and New Zealand are sometimes called in the Pacific, sell a lot more to the island states than they ever buy from them.

The complaint was borne out in figures produced at the seminar by a speaker from Australia's Trade Department, Mr Ian Taylor.

Mr Taylor said Australia supplied goods worth \$434 million to Papua New Guinea in 1980, and items worth another \$314 million were sold to other Pacific Island states.

It imported goods worth \$74 million from Papua New Guinea that year,



Father Walter Lini

and goods worth \$100 million from other Pacific states.

Mr Taylor added: "Although a large trade imbalance exists, it is substantially offset by the funds injected through aid, investment and tourism."

Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Street, was perhaps more diplomatic in his assessment.

He acknowledged that Australia was seen by many Pacific Island states as "potentially dominant and pervasive."

"Such a view is inevitable given Australia's location, size and comparative economic strength.

"It is, for example, an inescapable fact that we are seen as a dominating influence on the region's trade, aid, commerce, banking, media, tourism and security."

However, Mr Street added: "Aus-

tralia does not aspire to, nor has it sought to translate the fact of its size and economic influence into a basis for a new colonial or neo-colonial relationship with the independent states and territories in the region.

"Australia does accept, however, that it has a special role to play in the South Pacific and our acceptance of these responsibilities has been emphasised since the island states began to achieve independence."

Mr Street recalled that Pacific states had virtually free duty access for most of their exports to Australia under the South Pacific Area Regional Trade and Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA) and that Australia's new joint venture program was designed to help Pacific Islanders become partners in joint ventures with Australian companies.

Father Lini said there would be a resurgence of Melanesian ways in Vanuatu and appealed for Australians to understand this.

"I represent, to give one basic example, a land-using culture," he said. "European-oriented Australia represents a land-owning culture.

"The Western concept of regarding land as a marketable commodity is not just alien to a Melanesian but considered impractical and immoral in the very best sense that the term can be applied."

These differences are the most explosive issue in relations between the French and the Melanesian people — or kanaks — of New Caledonia today.

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: 0452177-09-28**

FROM:

SOUTH
PACIFIC
PEOPLES
FOUNDATION
OF CANADA

TO:

303-620 View St.
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 1J6