

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



SPPF-UPDATE

SPPF continues to be busy. Since our last newsletter, Mrs. Sinisia Taumoepeau, an artist from Tonga had a successful and full tour of British Columbia and Alberta.

In B.C... Sinisia visited 7 different communities, and undertook a total of 12 workshops/demonstrations/exhibitions. Approximately 1500 people were directly exposed to Sinisia's beautiful paintings and weavings, as well as to information on Tonga. Sinisia, herself, will have many experiences to take back with her to Tonga. She visited three native indian communities (Ahousat, Tshechalt in Port Alberni, and Squamish band offices in North Vancouver), and was able to participate in an indian feast and watch dancing and games. Sinisia also participated in a cultural exchange with native indian carvers, weavers, etc., which saw Sinisia explaining Tongan traditional painting styles and meanings and giving demonstrations, and the native indian artists doing likewise. This whole occassion was filmed by a CBC television "feature crew", and was later shown on CBC television news in British Columbia, thus reaching an audience of some 120,000 people ! Further press coverage was provided along the tour in some of the smaller communities.

From initial reports from Alberta, the tour went extremely well in that province as well, with Sinisia visiting Medicine Hat, Calgary, Edmonton and two smaller communities around Edmonton.

SPPF is very greatful for the assistance it received in welcoming Sinisia from the small Tongan community in Vancouver, and the small Pacific Island community in Victoria. SPPF would like to especially thank the Moi Moi family and Emma Chalmers of Vancouver, and Winnie Wass and Hilary White of Victoria.

Sinisia's tour helped to give SPPF and the work we do further exposure in B.C. and Alberta, and allowed us to get information out concerning the project we are raising funds for in Tonga, audio-visual resources we have available, and information on the upcoming educational tour.

Other than the artist's tour, we have continues to give talks, and show audio-visual materials. Jim Boutilier, one of SPPF's Board members, gave talks to prisoners at William Head Penitentiary, to a group of United Church women, and also to students at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario. SPPF had its photo display at a shopping mall in Victoria for three days, and also set up a booth at the Victoria YMCA's International Development Day, where we were able to meet and talk directly with 150 people.

Most recently, SPPF co-hosted with the Anglican church the visit to Victoria of Suliana Siwatibou, who has just co-authored a primer on nuclear energy and weaponry for Pacific Islanders under auspicies of the Pacific Conference of Churches. SPPF was able to have Suliana interviewed on television news, and also have her interviewed by the Victoria paper (see article further in newsletter).

SPPF's current programmes and priorities are the selling of its lottery tickets as a fundraiser for the Tongan project and for SPPF's public education programme.

ARE YOU (WERE YOU) A MEMBER ?

Part of the way that SPPF continues its work is through supporting memberships, which assist us immensely in providing the matching funds we need to receive monies from CIDA for our public education programme. If you are not a supporting member, we truly hope that you will consider financially supporting our efforts. Memberships start at \$25.

If you already are a supporting member, we thank you greatly. At the same time, many of our supporting members need to renew for a new year. If you are in this category, we hope that we continue to receive your support. Many thanks.

LOTO-SPPF, OR THE CONTINUING SAGA OF FUNDRAISING

SPPF currently has a lottery underway to provide funds for our Tongan rehabilitation project (and, if enough tickets are sold, towards our public education programme).

CP Air has been most generous in providing us two free tickets from Vancouver to Fiji, and we have added \$750 towards accomodation. As a second prize, Mrs. Sinisia Taumoepeau of Tonga, has donated one of her paintings.

SPPF has only had 3,000 tickets printed, and the tickets sell for \$5 each. Members and supporters throughout B.C. are assisting us in selling tickets, and we are most grateful for their help.

BEYOND THE LOOKING GLASS TOUR - JUNE 1983

SPPF is organising a 28 day tour of four Pacific Islands for June of 1983. The tour is educational in nature, with the objective being to expose Canadians to active Pacific Islanders in the development area, so that Canadians can find out first-hand what is currently occuring in the Pacific.

Plans include 8 days in Fiji, where briefings will be held with the University of the South Pacific. As well, we plan to meet with representatives of the Pacific Conference of Churches, hear concerns and realities concerning nutrition in the South Pacific, visit a village development project and find out from villagers how it has helped them, visit the old capital, and visit the Cultural Centre.

4 days will be spent in Tonga, where plans include project visits, and a tour on a fishing vessel and briefing by fishermen on their situation. One week will be spent in Vanuatu, and includes an outer island visit and volcanoe tour. Five days will be spent in New Caledonia, where we plan to be briefed by various representatives of the South Pacific Commission.

The tour is scheduled to leave Vancouver on June 5, returning on July 1st. Price for the tour (subject to currency fluctuation) will be \$ 3825. This price includes all transportation by air and on ground, and all accomodation, as well as insurance and all taxes. It does not include meals.

31,99

There is a limit on this tour of twenty people, so if you are interested please let us know. To hold the seats we have booked, we must have names and deposits for the tour no later than March 1st.

If you are interested and would like further information, please drop us a line.

MAX BELL SAYS NO

On November 9, SPPF found out that the Board of Directors of the Max Bell Foundation had turned down SPPF's proposal for a three part programme aimed at starting a student exchange between Canada and USP in Fiji; at carrying out a cultural exchange between Canada and the South pacific; and developing two developmental workshops. SPPF had requested \$260,000 from Max Bell as part of a three year, \$400,000 package.

Max Bell Foundation indicated that its priorities were in the areas of trade and commerce, and not development. Also, the Foundation seemed to have little if any interest in the South Pacific, being more interested in Japan and China. While SPPF is of course grateful for the serious consideration the Max Bell Foundation gave our proposal, we are disapointed that none of the proposal found acceptance. The Canadian International Development Agency has agreed to provide \$30,000 to SPPF for its project in Tonga to assist in rehabilitation in the isolated Ha'apai island grouping following Cyclone Isaac in March of this past year.

As part of its committment, SPPF must raise \$10,000 to get the full \$30,000 match from CIDA, and SPPF is currently fundraising in this regard. We have made contact with the United Church Conference for B.C., and hope to be able to contact individual congregations (the United Church has a focus on the South Pacific this year).

SPPF has been granted a donation of \$500 from St. John's Anglican Church in Vancouver for this project, and is most grateful. If any readers would like to make individual donations, would like more information, or would like to approach a church or service club they are associated with on our behalf, we would more than welcome, and can more than use, the assistance.

PNG Closes Tourism Office

by Margaret Kitchen

Does the multi-national tourist package tour with its lure of sun, sea, and sex on idyllic Pacific islands really benefit the islanders themselves?

The question has been posed before, and not just in the Pacific, but the debate has reached a degree of seriousness in recent months with the closure of the Papua New Guinea tourist office and the publication of new tourism research by the Pacific Conference of Churches.

The PNG government decided to give tourism a low priority when it decided against allocating funds to the Office of Tourism this year. For a few months the PNG Tourist Association tried to save the Office by drawing up an outline tourist policy and submitting it to Minister for Science, Culture and Tourism, Stephen Tago. The proposals suggested levying tax on tourism's private enterprise. But the government wasn't interested, and the Office of Tourism is winding down, leaving the country's tourist promotion in the hands of multi-national interests.

PNG has never really opened to tourism in a big way, mainly due to its own emergence from isolation and lack of roads to link potential resorts. The very few hotels able to accommodate tourists comfortably are extremely expensive and only the wealthy find it possible to stay there. There is also a degree of hostility from many villagers towards curious sight-seers which is an effective deterrent to the average "first world" tourist.

Closure of the PNG Office of Tourism virtually coincided with publication of Pacific Tourism, Contrasts in Values and Expectations, written and researched by Cynthia Z. Biddlecomb for the Pacific Conference of Churches.

The book is intended as a study resource for Pacific communities. It examines the effect tourism is having on Pacific people, and encourages ways of finding alternatives to the packaged tourist deal, which is almost entirely controlled by multi-national corporations and often deprives islanders of their land rights.

The book is not just a string of facts about the negative impact of tourism on island cultures. It does offer some optimistic alternatives for the inclusion of local people in a genuine attempt to foster understanding between different peoples while offering the rest and recreation that tourists seek.

It calls on the church in the strongest terms, not to remain passive, but to do something positive to create a mutually more acceptable form of tourism.

In Papua New Guinea, the churches might find that in the absence of a government-backed tourism office, their responsibilities towards constructive tourism will multiply.

Pacific Tourism, Contrasts in Values and Expectations, is published by Lotu Pasifika, the PCC's publishing company. The cost is F\$1.80 plus 12¢ per copy surface mail, 60¢ per copy airmail (Lotu Pasifika, P.O. Box 208, Suva, Fiji).

FROM: PACIFIC MAGAZINE

VICTORIA TIMES- Colonist BUT 1982

Tapa-stry

Tongan uses mulberry bark to make canvas for painting

It's a bit like making strudel, but the results last longer.

Sinisia Taumoepeau, an artist from the South Pacific country of Tonga, showed how she makes *tapa* cloth to print and paint.

Using an age-old process, she takes the bark of the paper mulberry tree — it's already been sun-dried, then soaked in water — and spreads it over a log.

With an *ike*, or wooden mallet, she beats the bark. And to strengthen the resulting papery cloth, she folds it and beats some more.

"Folding-beating, folding-beating until it's the width you want and the thinness you want," said Taumoepeau in an Australian accent she acquired at school.

The process is like that used to make thin, buttery pastry dough. But the product — tapa — is a durable, fibrous sheet like rice paper.

It is for Polynesians what canvas is in the West.

Taumoepeau starts a painting by printing sheets of tapa with traditional island designs. To do this, she spreads tapa over a printing block made from the wood of the coconut palm.

The design comes from palm-leaf ribs which have been bent and whip-stitched to the thin wooden block.

Dipping a scrap of tapa into natural dye, Taumoepeau rubs it over the snowy paper. Timidly at first, then boldly, the motif on the printing block comes through.

After letting the paint dry in the sun, Taumoepeau uses a brush to fill in the spaces in the stirring, often-geometric designs: Some of her paintings are shaped like mandalas; others incorporate lissome plant, animal and human figures.

"The dye is the sap from the mangrove plant," said the artist. "There are two colors — black and brown, that's all."

She uses the mangrove-dye to sign her work in a round, clear hand: "Sinisia, 82 Tonga."

Taumoepeau has just begun a month-long tour of B.C. and Alberta, sponsored by the South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada and by the Ottawa-based Institute for Development and Education through the Arts.

Phil Esmonde, the foundation's executive director, said her presence would give focus to a drive to educate Canadians about the South Pacific.

"People's image of the Pacific is one of paradise," he said. Yet behind the swaying palms and sparkling sea, there is poverty.

The average weekly wage in Tonga is less than \$10. The economy, which hinges on the sale of products like copra, is precarious and undiversified.

It has been shown — in places like Hawaii — that fostering tourism is both a blessing and a curse.

The South Pacific Peoples Foundation is taking Taumoepeau to Duncan, Nanaimo, Courtenay and the native Indian village of Ahousat, near Tofino. Next month she'll tour Edmonton, Calgary and Banff.

On Saturday, she will be at the downtown public library, demonstrating the making, printing and painting of tapa, and weaving baskets from the pale pliant fibres of the pandanus tree.

Alex Barta photo

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN THE PACIFIC

by James E. Winkler

The growth of transnational corporations since the end of World War II is one of the most important phenomena of modern society. However, the internationalization of business has not led to the internationalization of profits. Vast wealth has been concentrated in New York, Tokyo, and Paris, with little left to "trickle down" to Suva (Fiji) or Noumea (New Caledonia). Out of the world's 500 largest corporations in 1979, 219 were based in the United States.

The exploitation caused by TNC's can be subtle or brutal, and it is hard to document because of limiteddisclosure laws in many Pacific countries. The absence of extreme poverty in the Pacific Islands and the passing of colonialism in much of the region also conceal the extent of the exploitaion. Most of the island economies are controlled by a coalition of major industrial nations and their related TNC's. As in many parts of the developing world, these economies are dependent on a single or a few commodities to produce crucial foreign-export earnings.

The entrance of TNC's into the Pacific has helped to produce higher prices, lower wages, inflation, pollution, depletion of non-renewable resources, radioactivity, and economic depression. Some governments make concessions to attract TNC's (Fiji is considering establishment of an industrial free zone on the model of those in many Asian countries), but even those who don't find it hard to outmanoeuver the TNC's power and resources.

Fiji has a single-commodity economy, based on sugar, which produces two thirds of its foreign exchange. Fijians, however, do not set the prices they will receive for this sugar. Price setting is done by speculators operating in such institutions as the Chicago Board of Trade. When the world-market price of sugar is high, Fiji benefits; when it is not, Fiji suffers. The real profits are made, not in growing sugar, but in refining, distributing and marketing sugar, all of which is controlled by TNC's.

Papua New Guinea has placed all its hopes on mineral resources. Planning to develop the country's rich copper deposits, the government has invited a consortium of American (Amoco), West German and Australian corporations to operate the OK Tedi mine, due to open in the mid-1980's. (OK Tedi is being built by the Bechtel Corporation, whose former President and Vice-President are now the U.S. Secretary of State and Secretary of of these TNC's might be taken over by larger TNC's becomes significant in light of the growing strategic importance of the Pacific region.

Japan is seeking international endorsement for the Pacific Basin Cooperative Concept (PBCC). Over the past 15 years the Pacific Basin Economic Council (with a membership of more than 400 corporations) and such "think tanks" as the Brookings Institution and the East-West Center in the United States have participated in a process of top-down planning, maximizing corporate rather than native profits. A typical example of a PBCC projects was reported in the New York Times (Sept. 30, 1982): Former U.S. National Security Advisor Richard Allen went to Japan in June as part of a U.S. delegation, to join with other "like-minded parties" to form the Pacific Democratic Union, an organization of moderate and conservative political parties in the Pacific Basin area. The role of the Pacific Island nations in the PBCC is to provide . sites for storage and refining facilities, nuclear waste dumps, and the testing and perfecting of nuclear weapons and delivery systems.

What are the alternatives for the Pacific people? When a country such as Nicaragua tries to end its dependence on the United States, it has met with crippling opposition from the U.S. Government, especially the present U.S. administration. Pacific nations are finding that the Western model, based on the unlimited accumulation of material goods, is not appropriate for their style of life. In a Pacific Islands business magazine last year, a New Zealand businessman wrote, in frustration, of the need to "brainwash" Pacific Islanders. Because sharing is so important in their communal culture, he found they did not save enough money, to invest in "productive" enterprises that create further wealth.

Proponents of both capitalism and bureacratic socialism would have us believe that the creation of wealth can overcome injustice and solve inflation, unemployment, pollution, and other problems of industrial societies. Instead, there is a desperate need for new models of decision making and accountability that incorporate as many people as possible and emphasize human values and social goals rather than economic indicators. Perhaps the traditional cultures of the Pacific Islands can offer some social solutions for the future.

James Winkler is a United Methodist Church Mission intern. He spent a year in the Pacific, studying TNC's for the Pacific Conference of Churches and now works for the Methodist Federation for Social Action in Staten Island, New York.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- 1) A Touch of Australian Enterprises: The Vanuatu Experience, by Mike Bishop and Ann Wigglesworth, 1982, 46 pp. Available from International Development Action, 73 Little George St., Fitzroy, Victoria 3065, Australia (A\$2.50).
- Losing Control: Towards an Understanding of Transnational Corporations in the Pacific Islands Context, by James Winkler, 1982, 82 pp. Available from Lotu Pasifika Productions, Box 208, Suva, Fiji.
- 3) University of the South Pacific Sociological Society Newsletter, No. 3, August, 1982. Includes articles on Fiji's sugar, logging, and tobacco industries. Available from School of Economic and Social Development, University of the South Pacific Box 1168. Supp. Eiji

FROM : BACIFIC UPDATE OCTOBER 1982 PUBLISHED BY NATTONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHER U.S.A.

South Pacific N-fallout blamed for illnesses

By Stephen Hume

Radioactive fallout from nuclearweapons tests is taking a heavy toll on the health of South Pacific islanders, a Fiji native said Tuesday in Victoria.

"People are dying of cancer, and the radiation is also causing birth defects and miscarriages," Suliana Siwatibau said in an interview.

"But the scientists tell us these are normal to human populations, and that our population is too small for a proper statistical analysis."

Siwatibau is a member of the Pacific Conference of Churches and a resource leader at an Anglican disarmament conference this week in Vancouver.

She said the U.S., Britain and France exploded more than 200 nuclear devices in the South Pacific since 1916. Most of these tests were conducted in the atmosphere.



Siwatibau

Some islands were made uninhabitable by the fallout, and their populations were forced to move to less contaminated islands.

The U.S. and Britain stopped tests in the South Pacific, but the French continue to explode nuclear bombs underground at Mururoa Atoll, about 160 kilometres from the nearest inhabited island. French Polynesia has a population of 145,000.

"When they explode a bomb, they bore a hole through the coral of the atoll till they reach granite. But once, the bomb didn't go all the way to the granite and the explosion cracked the atoll and radiation leaked into the water. Now we hear the Island is collapsing.

"People in French Polynesia say they are eating fish and getting sick and they don't know why.

"They say they often see dead fish,

but the French are loathe to release information about the tests."

The South Pacific has received the most nuclear explosions of any region in the world, she said.

There are about 5 million people in the South Pacific. All 21 South Pacific countries belonging to the Pacific Conference of Churches and all regional governments have publicly condemned nuclear testing in the Pacific.

"But we are so small, nobody worries," said Siwatibau.

"Our children grow up talking nuclear war. They ask, "When is the world going to end in nuclear war?" "

Before Fiji gained independence from Britain in 1970, the New Zealand meteorological office would monitor rainwater for radiation.

"They used to find increases in radiation after each test. But the French authorities said the levels were not dangerous. They said the same thing about the strontium 90 (a hazardous radioactive substance) in the milk."

The anti-nuclear movement in North America and Europe is a hopeful sign because "it may be big enough to influence the decision makers."

"But now there is talk that the U.S. and Japan, both with vigorous nuclear power industries, are looking at the South Pacific as a possible dumping ground for nuclear wastes."

Siwatibau's visit was sponsored by the Anglican Church and the Victoriabased South Pacific Peoples Foundation, a public education group that raises money for small projects on the South Pacific islands.

Phil Esmonde, foundation executive director, said Canada should put pressure on France to stop nuclean testing in the South Pacific.

Regionally by Karen Knudsen

South Pacific Forum

reaty was ailing to sign the Law of the Sea n the FFA. he Forum Fisheries Agency with-out a veto from the U.S. Adhering eaders at the 13th Annual South Aicronesia, orum was encouraged, however Aicronesia, possessing Forum bserver status, was admitted to ew Zealand, in early August. The acific Forum meeting in Rotorua issatisfaction with the hen the a requirement for membership the provisions of the LOS Treaty expressed by Federated States of U.S. Pacific

A Forum resolution urged France to state its intentions towards New Caledonia's future political status and to work with the Kanak people to ensure a smooth political transition. Resolutions requesting France to halt nuclear testing in French Polynesia and the prohibition of nuclear waste dumping by any country into the Pacific Ocean were also passed. Seven Parific nations

Seven Pacific nations and a loan from the European Investment Bank provided \$18 million to help the Pacific Forum Line survive an acute financial crisis and to continue operations.

South Pacific Conference

and Canada. Bugotu will preside over the South Pacific Conference October. to be held in American Samoa in Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand Nest Germany, and Sweden; and uropean Economic ligh Commissioner to the United ador accredited to the U.S., U.N. uly, succeeding M. Young Vivian rancis Bugotu, from the Solomon olomon lands, became Niue. South Pacific Commission in Bugotu previously was Islands' Secretary-Genera Secretary foi Community

Karen Knudsen is Pacific outreach coordinator for the University of Hawaii's Pacific Islands Studies Program and the Pacific & Asian Affairs Council, Honolulu.

THE UNJUST CONSEQUENCES OF MILITARISM by Rosalie Bertell

On a recent trip to the island communities in the Pacific Osean, I became aware of the tragic story of the displaced people of a small atoll called Kwajalein. This drama is being enacted about 2,500 miles west of Hawaii on the Marshall Island, a part of micronesia. It should serve to alert Albertans about the consequences of hosting a U.S. missile testing site.

In 1947, the Kwajalein Islanders were forced off their land by the U.S. military and resettled in Ebeye. They are now trying to reclaim their island by non-violet return and re-occupation of the land. The population of Ebeye, which has only 76 acres, exceeds 8000. It is considered the most densely populated island in the Pacific. Of this 8000 people, roughly 6000 live in cinderblock apartments. The apartments have four rooms and about 60 to 100 people live in one apartment complex, using one kitchen facility and one toilet. The remaining 2000 people have still worse accommodations, living in shacks with kerosene stoves and outhouses. In march 1976, the Congress of Micronesia declared Ebeye a disaster area and urged immediate action to solve the water shortage there. Nothing was done and the now worsened situation includes: extreme water shortage, rampant disease and disappearing trees and vegatation on most of the islands. Swimming in its once pure lagoon is prohibited because it is severely polluted due to lack of sewage treatment facilities on the island. The bacteria count, now about 5 million per milliliter of water, is 25,000 times higher than the maximum safe level recommended by the World Health Organization. Because of widespread destruction of land and water, 95% of the food on Ebeye must be imported. Previously they were 100% self-sufficient.

The U.S. Navy turned Kwajalein over to the army in 1947 and it became a site for developing anti-missile missiles and for testing the accuracy of intercontinental ballistic missiles that are detonated at Vandenberg Airforce Base 5000 miles away in California. The army now controls the entire atoll. Kwajalein contains 900 acres and since the native islanders were forced to move out it has become home for about 3000 Americans. It has a modern hospital and school system. The living quarters for American on Kwajalein include modern air-conditioned homes, sprinkled lawns and golf courses, sidewalks and modern wellstocked stores.

Young Micronesian girls (as young as 11 years of age) are employed to cater to the pleasure of the American men.

Global Associates of Oakland, California holds a \$30 million a year contract from the U.S. government to operate the Kwajalein base. This company pays Micronesians hired at the base only \$2.40 an hour, forbids Micronesians access to the cheaper well-stocked Kwajalein food stores and refuses them access to Kwajalein schools for their children. Micronesian workers are not allowed to seek medical assistance at the Kwajalein hospital, although they lack any hospital facilities at Ebeye. These practices are gross violations of U.S. Federal equal pay for equal job laws, as well as blatant injustices.

In 1964, the Marshall Island Trust Territory government paid the displaced islanders \$75,000 for **99** years use of Kwajalein Islands, about \$10 per acre per year, and the U.S. agreed to "improve the economic and social conditions of the Marshallese people" especially at Ebeye. They have failed to date to bring about any improvement of the Marshallese economy or social well-being.

In July 1979, hundreds of Kwajalein land-owners returned to and occupied their lands to protest the unlivable conditions on Ebeye. The two-week protest disrupted some U.S. missile tests and forced the U.S., for the first time, to negotiate a one year lease for the use of Kwajalein in exchange for \$9.9 million. This lease expires October 1st, 1982.

Since first designating Kwajalein as a missile research center and a center for testing the accuracy of intercontinental ballistic missiles, the U.S. has expanded its surveillance radar stations. The Altair Radar Station was built at Roi-Namur in Kwajalein and is a key part of the air **cer**ps Pacific Barrier Radar System. It is of high strategic importance to the United States and one reason why the U.S. was willing to pay for the rights to stay on the Kwajalein atoll.

In January 1981, a Base Operating Rights Agreement for Kwajalein was negotiated with the Marshall Island government, granting U.S. military rights to Kwajalein for 30 years with 100 years military denial rights to all other nations. The Marshallese land-owners of Kwajalein were not consulted about the compact which they later rejected because "there was no language about how they were going to be treated as people." The Reagan administration's cutbacks in economic aid and social programs coupled with more emphasis on U.S. military strategic bases has heightened the crisis.

After 13 years of failed negotiations with the U.S., the Federated States of Micronesia finally declared in January 1982 that, if no agreement with the United States was reached by April 1st, the Marshall Islands would declare their independence. With no agreement in sight, the Marshallese called for a referendum to be held August 17th 1982 on whether or not the people would continue to allow their land, water and air to be used for development of nuclear weapon systems. On may 18th, 1982 the Marshall Island negotiators publicly notified the U.N. Trusteeship Council of their intent to declare independence from the United States on October 1st, 1982. Tony De Bru, Chief Negotiator and Marshall Islands Foreign Minister, asked that the August 17th referendum offer Marshallese the choice of "free association" or "independence". On May 30th, the U.S. State Department Negotiator, Fred Zeder, took the further initiative of asking the Marshall Islands president, Amata Kabua, to sign a Compact of Free Association to be voted on by the Marshallese on August 17th and, if ratified, to be acted on by the U.S. Congress by October 1st, 1982. The Compact was drawn up hastily to defuse the crisis, without consulting the Kwajalein land-owners. Under the Compact of Free Association, U.S. military uses of Kwajalein would be assured and U.S. military denial rights extended just as they had been in the previous compacts which the Micronesian people have refused.

To vent their frustrations and declare their rights of selfdetermination, about 800 men, women and children invaded their former home islands the week of June 15th and set up shelters for an indefinate stay. These Micronesians are protesting the conditions on Ebeye and demanding a say in continued U.S. military use of their homeland. In addition to these complaints, Marshallese note that the Altair Radar Station, an "intelligence communications and command" station, makes Kwajalein a high priority target in event of war. The Marshallese do not wish to contribute to nuclear wars against other people, nor do they wish to be a strategic target in such a war. It seems impossible for them to extricate themselves from the net of nuclear militarism.

On June 20th, about 15 peaceful protesters on Kwajalein, including three members of the Marshallese parliament, were arrested by the Kwajalein military security forces. One of those arrested, Julien Riklon, reported being beaten and kicked by the security forces.

On July 23rd, the Marshallese Islands Foreign Minister, Anton De Brum, announced that the August 17th Marshallese vote had been cancelled and a voting date indefinately postponed. Meanwhile, the protesters began building permanent homes at Roi-Numar, an area of Kwajalein not likely to be targeted by the missile tests. Presence of the Marshallese on Kwajalein caused cancellation of a U.S. missile test on August 4th. The U.S. tried to bribe Marshallese with food and win their agreement to vacate the land. After this failed, the U.S. refused to pay the \$2 million final payment on the one-year Interim Use Agreement for the missile base. The Agreement expires September 30th, 1982. This is the reason for the October 1st deadline, whereupon the Marshallese wish to declare their independence from the United States. In retaliation for the occupation of Kwajalein, the U.S. has also cut off telephone communication with the Marshallese land-owners and imposed a press blackout on the atoll. Newspaper and TV reporters have been denied access to Kwajalein. Anyone who comes to Kwajalein from Ebeye is searched and food is conficated. The U.S.F.D.A. food shipments to the atoll have been cut off and water for toilet facilities at Camp Hamilton where the Marshallese have re-settled has been stopped. The U.S. also barred Marshallese from using the banks in Kwajalein, causing extreme hardship, since there is no bank in Ebeye. They relented and re-opened the bank on August 9th. The Marshallese government issued two temporary restraining orders, one on June 19th to prevent the land-owners from occupying Kwajalein and another to prevent interference with missile tests. Both restraining orders were overturned by a high court. In spite of this, Marshall Island's President Amata Kabua has denounced the people involved in the occupation as "criminals." The land-owners plan to vote among themselves on October 1st, 1982, the day after the Interim Use Agreement with the U.S. expires. They are in urgent need of financial assistance and

letters of support. Cheques can be made out to and sent to:

Operation Homecoming Pacific Concerns Research Center Post Office Box 27692 Honolulu, Hawaii 96827 de bed bed yeld be

Letters protesting the searches of Marshallese and the confiscation of food and other items as a violation of basic human rights and personal privacy may be addressed to:

Colonel John Banks, Jr. Comman de r Kwajalein Missile Range San Fransisco, California 96555 not wish to contribute to nucle

Letters in support of Kwajalein land-owners and letters protesting U.S. missile tests can be sent to:

ob ten selater do

Ambassador Fred Zeder Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations U.S. Department of State Washington, D.C. 20520

It was Zeder who signed the Compact of Free Association which, if not acted on by October 1st, 1982, should automatically bring about Marshallese independence. Contrary to this agreement, De Brum stated publicly in Hawaii, on July 23rd, that the U.S. will never allow the Marshallese independence.

These native peoples need to know that the human community is aware of their plight and is in sympathy with their desire for peaceful resettlement of their homeland. Militarism is taking a heavy toll on small isolated communities which happen to live on land designated as "strategic". The cure for this illness can be nothing less than world peace.

dated October 1st, 1982

by Rosalie Bertell,Ph.D., G.N.S.H. Cancer Research Scientist 947 Queen Street East Toronto, Ontario M4M 1J9 (416) 469-1123

On May 30, the Marshall Islands ended 13 years of strenuous negotiations with the United States and signed a "Compact of Free Association" which outlined a form of self-government with continuing support from—and concessions to—the U.S. (see July/Aug 82).

A memorandum of understanding signed between Anton "Tony" de Brum, foreign secretary and chief negotiator for the Marshalls, and Ambassador Fred Zeder, chief U.S. negotiator, agreed that sincere attempts would be made to hold a plebiscite—with a clearcut choice between the Compact and independence—on August 17 in the Marshalls, and to acquire necessary U.S. Congressional approval by Oct. 1, 1982. Otherwise, de Brum stated, the Marshalls would unilaterally declare the end of the 35-year U.N. trusteeship relationship and would thenceforth be independent.

After the May 30 signing of the Compact, all the Marshallese felt was necessary was to return home, conduct a 10-week public education program, and let fate decide what future status would be in store for them by October 1.

Then, as if by violent chain reaction, several elements of the plan began to fall apart. First, the landowners of Kwajalein Atoll announced that they would oppose the Compact, and followed up with an "Operation Homecoming" to reclaim their islands. That protest began on June 19 and showed no signs of letting up by late August. Marshallese from northern atolls affected by past U.S. nuclear testing also announced various reasons for opposing the Compact. From the U.S., Zeder denied his commitment to the agreed upon timetable under increasing pressure from involved personnel in the U.S. departments of Interior, State, and Defense. The United Nations appeared to accede to U.S. concerns and proclaimed an inability-or unwillingness-to send an observing team on August 17 to sanction the plebiscite. Finally, the U.S. imposed its Trust Territory authority to suspend the Marshalls' ability to conduct the plebiscite, postponing it indefinitely, and announced that no wording on the ballot would be allowed that offered a clear choice for independence.

In response to those actions, de Brum and Deputy Foreign Secretary Phillip Muller went to Washington and New York to meet with U.S. government officials, and to present a statement to the U.N. Committee on Decolonization (the Committee of 24).

De Brum, along with Muller, met with Pacific Magazine on August 10 in Honolulu to review what the situation was like at that point. Excerpts of that interview follow.

The Marshalls Besieged

Foreign Secretary Tony de Brums on Washington, the U.N., Kwajalein, the Northern Atolls... ... and Independence

interview by Greg Knudsen

acific: What is the current situation in Washington?

De Brum: We met with Pedro Sanjuan [assistant secretary of the interior for territorial and international affairs] and James Buckley [undersecretary of state]. Sanjuan sees his role as a transition role. He does not want to wander into the negotiations area. Unfortunately, his department is involved in negotiations because of two items. One is the election law which the secretary of the interior suspended. And secondly, they administer the funds that Congress appropriated for the educational program. Therefore, without their releasing the funds, there cannot be a plebiscite education program on the Compact. . . .

Mr. Buckley said he would take the matter up at the interagency group on Micronesia on August 4, but we haven't heard from him as of now [August 10].

Pacific: Which U.S. official or government agency do you feel has the most influence on matters affecting the Marshall Islands?

De Brum: If I knew that, our work would be so much easier. Mr. Buckley is the chairman of the interagency group and he is in the State Department, so we went to him. What we are trying to do is meet with the principals involved other than Ambassador Zeder who we've been talking with all the time to see just where they're coming from and to see if maybe we can understand their problems and they understand ours.

One thing that was obvious to us was that the way we have presented our problems and desires to the ambassador are not exactly the way some of these other officials comprehend them. There may be some communication problems.

Pacific: Is Ambassador Zeder still effective as the chief negotiator for the U.S.? **De Brum:** We are no longer negotiating with the U.S. on anything other than the date and the terms of the plebiscite. Of course, the language of the plebiscite we never anticipated having to negotiate. We understood the United States' position as explained to us by Ambassador Zeder—as agreed to by Ambassador Zeder and myself—that free association would be put up against independence. That's how we hope the final wording of the plebiscite will come out.

The ambassador is having, I assume, difficulty in getting the approvals needed for the plebiscite language from all the necessary U.S. agencies. So, I cannot comment on his being able to negotiate because our negotiations with him are over. It's within his own government that he must negotiate.

Pacific: [To Deputy Foreign Secretary Phillip Muller.] Phil, you presented the statement at the U.N. Committee on Decolonization. What were the reactions of the member countries to the Marshalls' plea?

Muller: We had an excellent reception...There were several reactions from members of the Committee: Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and several other countries all spoke up in support of what we are doing in the Marshalls at the present time.

Pacific: How did the U.N. Trusteeship Council react to the Marshalls going before the Decolonization Committee?

De Brum: Very negatively. As a matter of fact, I was asked very openly by one member of the Trusteeship Council not to go to the Committee of 24, that it would have the end result of postponing even further the termination of the trusteeship. I don't know what that means.

Muller: That same person met me in New York and informed me that Tony would call me and ask me to withdraw our petition. But, since I had not heard from Tony, I went and gave the statement. Even right before the statement was given we had pressure from the British and French to withdraw the petition.

Pacific: On a domestic matter, what has the government of the Marshalls done to end the continuing protest on Kwajalein?

De Brum: The president [Amata Kabua] met with the landowners who are protesting—it is only a small percentage of all the landowners of Kwajalein—and tried to advise them that there are things we would work out among ourselves. We thought it was an ill-advised move to demonstrate against the U.S. Army because the government of the Marshalls brought back a Compact. We felt that the people could and should express their views in a plebiscite and that *that* view would no doubt be respected by the government of the Marshall Islands and the United States.

The protest is a peaceful demonstration which any democratic country must allow, as long as it doesn't interfere with others' rights. The U.S. maintains that it doesn't interfere with their missile testing program.

It was our belief that the United States would be reasonable in dealing with this, rather than cutting off banking services, sending in the Marines [a move, de Brum said, was "ostensibly to maintain peace and order"], cutting off toilet facilities, and preventing shipment of food from reaching Ebeye which punishes the entire population for the actions of a small number.

Denying the protesters legal counsel, for example, is a violation of any man's democratic principals. For the United States to pull that kind of stunt on us—us, because those people are Marshallese—is really bad judgement on their part.

Pacific: Does the Marshalls government contend that the protesters are violating the law?

De Brum: We did try to take them to court, to obtain restraining orders. But our own judges said: "You must be kidding. First of all you take these people to court and deny them legal counsel and you expect the courts to take action against them?"

The protesters contend that they're now legal because the U.S. hasn't made the second payment on the interim use agreement [IUA]. So, even prior to July 10, which was to be the date of the second payment, if there was a question at that time of their legality, now there is even less question. They may very well be legal where they are.

Pacific: When the IUA expires, will the Marshalls government pursue further action to remove the landowners from Kwajalein?

De Brum: When the interim use agreement expires on September 30, and there is no other agreement in effect, why should they move back to Ebeye? They will unquestionably be on their land.

Pacific: The subsidiary agreement to implement section 177 of the Compact

defines U.S. obligations for "full settlement of all claims, past, present, and future," on matters derived from past U.S. nuclear testing in the Marshalls. What is the reaction from Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utirik?

De Brum: I might summarize Bikini's reaction this way: their own senator went to the press and said that he was there to kill the Compact. He told the Bikini people that the amounts are inadequate, the provisions for cleaning up Bikini are too weak, and the espousal [the removal of U.S. liability from all other radiation-related claims] is unacceptable.

Enewetak's reaction has been that there is not enough money: "We don't like it; if you give us more money we might like it."

Utirik and Rongelap are more difficult because these are the people who are actually injured [from radioactive fallout]. In most cases I believe there has been a little bit more definite feeling that the 177 arrangement cannot be accepted.

But, you must also remember that these are four atolls that the U.S. will agree are contaminated. They will not agree on the others in the northern Marshalls-some of which fall between and amongst these four named atolls. So those atolls are also up in arms about 177 over the fact that the U.S. still does not recognize that they have medical problems that have to be taken care of; that they have physical injuries and illnesses that are occurring, higher percentages than could normally be expected. The northern Marshalls have the highest cancer rate in the entire Pacific-a fact confirmed by U.S. public health figures.

Another important thing to remember is this is not something that was unexpected. We made it very clear to the United States. We said: "If you insist on those outrageous demands, both in 177 and the military use and operating rights, the people will kill the Compact."

Pacific: Has the notion of a formal declaration of independence been considered by the Marshallese government?

De Brum: We maintain the position that we are already independent, subject to restrictions placed upon us by the trusteeship agreement. We do not look at our status as anything other than that. And we have done some legal and academic research and are convinced that if it became necessary we could assert independence in that manner. We would argue that someone decided someplace away from us, without our knowledge or agreement, to place upon us restrictions that are dictated either by international agreements other than ones agreed to by ourselves, or by spoils of war.

But, we were always independent. No one has ever possessed us or colonized us or in any way taken away our sovereignty. It may have been more dormant at some period than others, but it has always been there.

Therefore, the removal of this colonial yoke that was placed upon us should not require the approval of those people who put the yoke on us, but ours....

The government has not taken a position on that issue as a way of terminating the trusteeship. The Compact is with the Nitijela [Marshalls' parliament] now and that's a policy decision that the Nitijela must make. All the options will be presented to the Nitijela and whatever decision they come up with and instruct us to carry out we will do.

Pacific: With all the negative experiences under the trusteeship, why would the Marshalls want a continuing relationship with the U.S.?

De Brum: Very good question. That is exactly what has gone through my mind. At least 13 years of my life have been spent on this process. It has revealed to me a side of the United States that has either been very well camouflaged over the years or which is not so apparent to its friends around the world-and certainly not to us: the side of the U.S. which violates the very basic foundations of democracy which it boasts to the rest of the world. Examples are denying legal counsel [to the Kwajalein protesters] and taking independence off the ballot because they're afraid people will vote for it.

I would personally find it very difficult to convince myself that I would like a relationship closer than as arm's-length friends in an independent world. They are much too big, much too powerful, much too intent on doing what they consider to be the most correct thing to do—which is to do what they want to do. I said before that they feel they are a little bit more equal than everyone else. . . .

Certain expectations have been built up over the years that must be dealt with. One cannot keep saying that if we cannot agree on this we'll just go back to the trusteeship. That is repugnant. One year of self government with trusteeship is OK; two years, maybe. But, three years and up you begin to say, "Hey, wait a minute. Why is this thing still hanging over my head?"

We've governed ourselves now for more than three years, and by God it feels good. It really does. We have problems. Teething pains are expected. But it really feels good.



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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED to continue the work of the Pacific Peacemaker. The 54-foot steel ketch has traveled 12,000 miles in the last ten months and is a symbol for the peace movement worldwide.

The project, a voyage in support of a nuclear-free Pacific, began in Australia in 1981. The Peacemaker has participated in anti-nuclear activities in New Zealand; at the French nuclear test site on Moruroa Atoll in Polynesia; in Hawaii; and in the blockade of the first Trident submarine on its arrival to Bangor, Washington. The boat's crew was warmly received by the Pacific peoples it met--a clear indication of the growing strength of an international peace movement.

In Australia, the boat was purchased by selling shares for \$250 each. This highly successful method allowed diverse groups such as the New Zealand and Australian Council of Churches, the Seamen's Union of Australia, peace and environmental organizations and individuals to jointly participate in the Peacemaker's journey.

The Pacific Peacemaker Project feels strongly that the boat's work should continue in the same tradition. The founding shareholders must be reimbursed by the 1st of December 1982. Unless we can raise the money to purchase the boat by that time, the Peacemaker will have to be returned to Australia and be sold on the open market.

We <u>must</u> raise \$100,000 by December 1. We urgently need your help in the following ways: (1) buy symbolic share memberships in the Pacific Peacemaker Project at \$250 each; (2) loan money to the project on a short-term basis until enough membership shares have been sold to cover the purchase price of the boat; and (3) give whatever you can to support the ongoing work of the Pacific Peacemaker.

With your help, the Peacemaker plans to return to the North Pacific islands next spring, calling at Belau, the Marshall Islands and other strategic points of nuclear activity. The Peacemaker will then proceed to Hiroshima, Japan, where it has been invited to participate in the Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb Conference in August 1983. We are also investigating the possibility of a visit to a Soviet port and the Aleutian Islands.

Articles of incorporation have been filed with the State of Washington and bylaws stating our objectives are currently being prepared. While the legal steps are being completed, arrangements have been made to hold loans and membership funds in a trust account. Please make checks payable to the Pacific Peacemaker Project, indicating whether the money is for an interest-free loan, for membership shares at \$250 each or a donation for ongoing expenses. For further information, please call Josie Reichlin (206) 323-3758 or Chris Johnson (206) 324-2342 or Rose MacHardy at (206) 328-2509.

> Yours in peace, The Pacific Peacemaker Project

Briefs

FORM PACIFIC ISLANDS HONTHLY AND PACIFIC MAGAZINE

The Marshall Islands will hold a unilaterally called plebis-Ine **Marshall Islands will hold a unilaterally called piedls** cite by December 1 on the choice between Free Associa-tion and Independence The Nitiliela (parliament) call cite by December 1 on the choice between rree Associa-tion and Independence. The Nitijela (parliament) said tion and independence. Ine Nitijela (parilament) salo August 19 that it would accept the results of the legally non-binding vote as the figentine decision of the People of the August 19 that it would accept the results of the legally non-binding vote as the "genuine decision of the People of the Marshall Islands." Marshall Islands."

Blown to Smithereens

Pacific Daily News, Guam

In the event of a direct nuclear hit, Guam is not what the military would call a "survivable location," an Air Force officer said in July.

"I would say, personally, a small land mass like this, if it took a direct hit, it would not survive," Col. Jose E. Stuntz, commander of the 43rd Strategic Wing stationed on Guam said.

And the chances of the island being close to a nuclear explosion are guite good. "Any SAC base is a prime target," he said. "Consider this the westernmost cutting edge-this is prime target."

From The Samoa Times, Apia

Professor Murphy, of McGill University, Canada, who has been studying suicide patterns in 50 countries has confirmed that "the international statistics on suicides during the 1970s do not show any other country to have a suicide rate in males aged 15-24 which is as high as the Western Samoa one". Since 1966, there have been 245 suicides in Western Samoa. In 1980, there were 40 suicides, in 1981, 42.

From an editorial in the Samoa Times on The Suicide Problem

. The problem is how can we make our young people see themselves as if in a mirror. The promises of materialism (fostered by a highly materialistic educational system) and rising expectations inflamed in large part by the media especially television and the movies have in large measure distorted the values of our young people made worse by the cultural lag of our elders and our society. What we need is for an educational system to reflect the basics of Samoan society; respect for authority and tradition and the family.

Hopes pinned on Mexican Mollie

Fiji's Ika Corporation is hoping to increase its annual catch of skipjack tuna by 50 percent with the aid of the Mexican Mollie, a small fish imported from Western Samoa to form the nucleus of a fishbait farm. The farm is under construction at Togalevu on Viti Levu. The fishing fleet of 14 boats has relied on catching bait while on fishing trips, an operation which takes up time that should be spent fishing for tuna. If the farm is successful, the fleet can carry its bait from port.



'Pacific Way' Astray Fiji Times, Suva

The Pacific Way is being eroded by foreign influences and must be reexamined and retaught anew, the new secretary-general of the South Pacific Commission, Francis Bugotu, told a University of the South Pacific audience on August 2.

"The much-talked-about ideal of the Pacific Way was once attainable, when life was for living, but is now unattainable because we all want to become big names. We who call ourselves leaders have been bought over by politics and money," Bugotu said.

American(?) Samoa

Samoa News, Pago Pago

At the Samoana High School graduation in June, speaker after speaker referred to the United States as "our country," "this nation of ours," "our great country," and to the people of American Samoa as "Americans." Also, political and traditional leaders have freely and continuously used, these terms when referring to the U.S. and to the people of American Samoa.

But this is all wrong! We are deceiving ourselves! First of all, we are, by law, "American nationals" and not U.S. citizens. "American National" is a colonial term with a colonial meaning. It refers to "subjects" or "wards" of the administrating authority, which, in our case, is the U.S. Secondly, American Samoa is not, by law, a part of the U.S. It is a possession of the United States.

Now, if we want to be Americans, want our territory to be a part of the U.S., the new constitution proposed by Rep. Fofo Sunia will give us the opportunity to insert provisions which would give us the status we want.

From the Cook Islands News

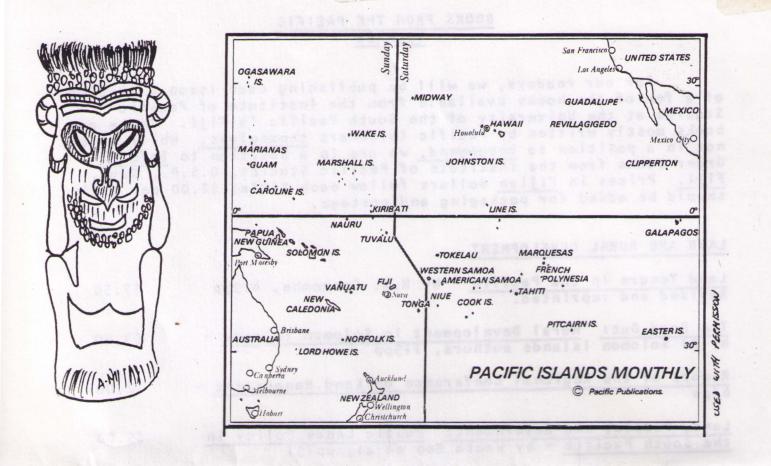
Nearly 30% of all deaths in the Cook Islands within the last 5-8 years have been due to diseases of the heart and circulation. The Health Department, when releasing these figures, added that the Cook Islands rate of high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and gout have increased greatly over the last 10 years. The department attributes this decline in our health standards to the fact that our nation has changed from the "simple traditional life" to the "money-oriented society".

BOOKS FROM THE PACIFIC

For our readers, we will be publishing each issue a listing of a few of the books available from the Institute of Pacific Studies at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. These are books mostly written by Pacific Islanders themselves. While we are not in a position to recommend, we are in a position to inform. Order books from the Institute of Pacific Studies, U.S.P., Suva, Fiji. Prices in Fijian dollars follow each title; \$2.00 per title should be added for packaging and postage.

LAND AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Land Tenure in the Pacific - by R.G. Crocombe, 419pp Revised and reprinted.	\$7.50
The Road Out: Rural Development in Solomon Islands - by 21 Solomon Islands authors, 119pp	\$3.00
Report of the Regional Conference on Land Management - 63pp	\$2.00
Land, People, and Government: Public Lands Policy in the South Pacific - by Waeta Ben et al, pp191	\$5.00
Fishermen of Tonga - by Stephen Halapua	\$4.00
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT	
Vanuatu - written in 3 languages by 21 Vanuatu authors	\$4.50
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SOCIAL AND CULTURAL	
The South Pacific - by R.G. Crocombe, 130pp Illustrated Politics, society, economy, religion, art & culture of the South Pacific today. Revised & reprinted	\$5.00
Pacific Tourism: As Islanders See It - by Lata Akau'ola Illustrated in colour 175pp	\$3.00
Religious Cooperation in The Pacific - by Amanaki Havea	\$5.00
The Pacific Way: Social issues in National Development - contains the views of some of the South Pacific's most significant leaders of opinion, 4th printing	\$5.00
Tradition & Change in the Fijian Village - by R.R. Nayacakaiou 164pp	\$3.00



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