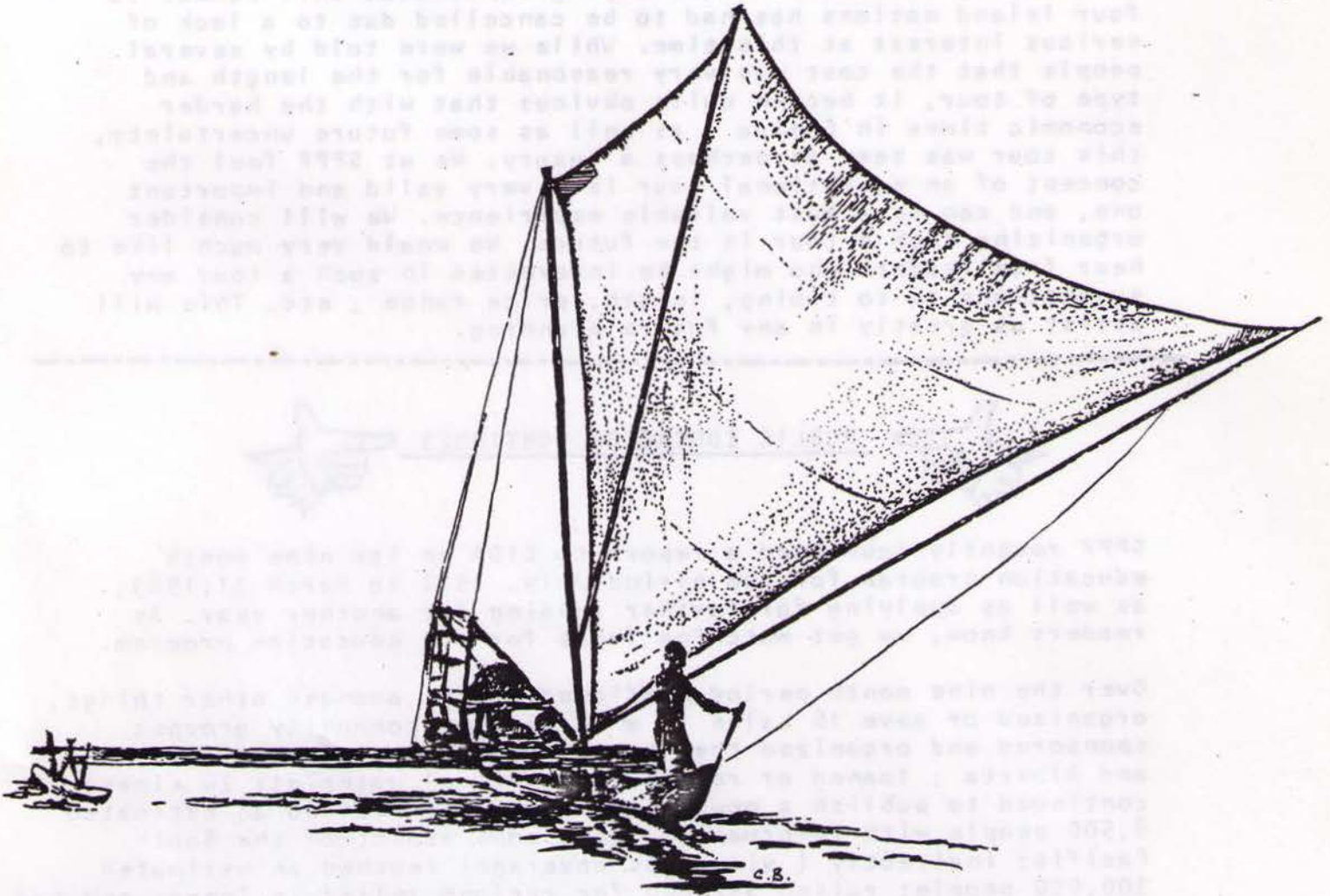


# Tok Blong SPPF

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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



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## EDUCATION TOUR CANCELLED

The educational tour we were hoping to conduct this summer to four island nations has had to be cancelled due to a lack of serious interest at this time. While we were told by several people that the cost was very reasonable for the length and type of tour, it became quite obvious that with the harder economic times in Canada, as well as some future uncertainty, this tour was seen as perhaps a luxury. We at SPPF feel the concept of an educational tour is a very valid and important one, and can be a most valuable experience. We will consider organizing such a tour in the future. We would very much like to hear from readers who might be interested in such a tour any suggestions as to timing, length, price range, etc. This will assist us greatly in any future planning.

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## PUBLIC EDUCATION CONTINUES



SPPF recently submitted a report to CIDA on its nine month education program for the period July, 1982 to March 31, 1983, as well as applying for further funding for another year. As readers know, we get matching funds for our education program.

Over the nine month period mentioned, SPPF, amongst other things, organized or gave 16 talks to a variety of community groups; sponsored and organized the tour of a Tongan artist to B.C. and Alberta; loaned or rented audio-visual materials 26 times; continued to publish a newsletter; directly reached an estimated 8,500 people with information about some aspect of the South Pacific; indirectly (via press coverage) reached an estimated 300,000 people; raised \$12,000 for cyclone relief in Tonga, and had the Canadian government agree to provide \$30,000 as a match for this project. Many, many people have assisted in more ways than can be mentioned here. It is estimated that 3,000 volunteer hours were donated over the nine month period, with efforts going toward our successful lottery, toward assisting in getting the newsletter out, to giving talks, to helping sit at information tables, to helping to organize events. All of this assistance helps SPPF to reach more people-- it is very much appreciated.

For the coming year, we generally plan to continue to make ourselves available for talking to groups; to continue to make our audio-visual material available, as well as to try to expand the audio-visual material on hand; and continue to help mobilize financial, material and volunteer support for South Pacific development projects. Of a specific nature, we plan to send sample copies of our Island Fact Sheets to Libraries and School Media Centres so that they will receive wider use. We also plan to develop a general slide tape introduction to the South Pacific region and the development issues of concern to Pacific Islanders.





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thatching can be used as even this material is in short supply after the cyclone."

"Among the problems resulting from this condition are that meals are prepared on dirt floors and if the weather is severe there is little or no protection from the elements. Also domestic animals are able to enter the kitchen area, since the walls are not sufficient to restrain them. The combination of dirt floors, exposure to the elements and animals entering the food preparation area presents an obvious health and sanitation problem."

The total financial assistance SPPF has put toward this project is \$40,000. We would again like to acknowledge and thank those who assisted on an individual basis by making donations.



▷ ONLY A STAMP, FIFTEEN MINUTES OF YOUR TIME , AND A  
POSTAL SYSTEM AWAY ◁

That's us! While it is an impossibility to do everything-- especially with limited resources-- we would love to hear your suggestions, ideas, strategies, & input on expanding and making more effective our education program. What could we do that we aren't doing, what effect might it have, and how might it be done? We are always looking for new ideas which are practical. This is one important way you can participate in guiding the work of SPPF, and we hope you will.

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TONGA PROJECT UNDERWAY

We have received word from Tonga that work has commenced on the rebuilding of 154 kitchen units and three showers with the initial \$21,000 sent to assist in rehabilitation work following Cyclone Isaac which struck Tonga last year. The rebuilding is taking place on six of the islands in the isolated Ha'apai group, and follows a needs survey undertaken once it was assured that the SPPF project was funded. A further survey is being conducted for the second phase of the project, and will see further assistance provided to the most needy cases in five other islands in the grouping. CIDA has received an interim report on the project and will shortly be releasing the final funds for us to transmit to TONGA.

Following is some brief information taken from the report by David Wyler, Field Officer for the Foundation for the People of the South Pacific, concerning the project.

"Materials used consist of roofing irons, cement, timber, bricks, nails or other materials necessary for the reconstruction. It is envisioned that US\$120 will be sufficient to allow even a family that had its entire kitchen destroyed to rebuild a kitchen at least 12' x 10' with cement floor and iron roofing which will meet basic health and sanitation requirements. At the same time though US\$120 will not be enough to complete an entire kitchen but will only be enough to meet basic health and sanitation requirements and it will be the responsibility of each individual family to provide the materials needed to complete the kitchen. These materials may consist of new or reusable or even local traditional materials. This will be counted as part of the local contribution and is estimated to be valued at least 25% of the cost of a kitchen of this size."

"The local Village Women's Development Groups will contribute to the project all labor, sand, aggregate, transport of materials to their island and some building materials."

Concerning the applicability and desirability of assistance for the rebuilding of kitchen and shower units, David Wyler notes that, "there is no relief program- either government or church- designed to aid in the reconstruction of any family building other than the living house. Just as badly damaged as living houses were the family cooking houses, called a peito, and shower rooms. A peito is a small room separate from the living house in which the family prepares and eats all its meals. Many peitos now consist of nothing more than a fire pit under a tree or a few peices of old left over roofing irons. In most cases not even traditional coconut leaf



This brief article is from SUPAMINN, the newsletter of the South Pacific Maternal and Infant Nutrition Programme, sponsored by the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific.

PROPER DIET MAKES SENSE TO VANUATU WOMEN

Eating the right food and paying attention to diet is becoming increasingly important to women in Vanuatu, says Fiji-trained dietician Theto Teritume.

Theto is the only dietician in Vanuatu, where she also trains student nurses in nutrition.

She works at the Central Hospital in Vila, Vanuatu and has recently started talking on Radio Vanuatu about mothers on maternal and infant feeding. Theto was also asked to speak on maternal health by Women's organizations at their annual meeting.

Diet and awareness of nutrition is slowly coming to Vanuatu, Theto told the Fiji Times. "Previously there was no dietician at the hospital," she said.

Now, Vanuatu women are skilled at growing vegetables and making wholesome dishes out of grated cassava. The change has been noticeable since independence in 1981.

"Women in Vanuatu are beginning to take interest in themselves and their family," said Theto. "They need training because they do not have enough knowledge on the value of food."





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Richard Swift and Dinah Forbes of the Development Education Centre, located in Toronto, recently completed a six week trip to the South Pacific to gather interviews for a radio show on development issues - "From a Different Perspective" - which is played on many FM stations across Canada. South Pacific Peoples Foundation has a copy of their trip report and their agreement for us to use it here. In this issue of TOK BLONG SPPF, we reproduce the introduction of their report, as well as their learnings in the areas of "aid, expatriates and elites" and "nuclear issues."

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The two DEC staff members who went spent several exhausting weeks talking with and interviewing more than eighty people about the region. We went to Hawaii, Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and French Polynesia (Tahiti) but except for a week travelling in the highlands of Papua New Guinea and limited travel in Fiji, our main experience of all the countries we visited was in their capitals.

We interviewed a broad range of people from academics and party leaders to volunteers and small business people. By listening to the differences in their perspectives on development and the political, economic and social problems facing the region, we were able in a very short period to build a fairly coherent understanding of these issues for ourselves.

The tour was a very intense learning experience for the two of us. We found very rapidly that many of the assumptions we make about politics and economics in terms of our own experience in Canada and even other parts of the Third World were wrong to make about the South Pacific region. An example would be our assumption of a left/right spectrum in politics which we found non-existent in the region except in the French colonies. Other assumptions we found invalid in parts of the region were our assumptions of western cultural dominance and of active underdevelopment in economic terms. Rather, we found in many places traditional cultures only marginally affected by western values - taking only what they found useful and incorporating it into their own cultural logic and successfully resisting the rest. Instead of an active and hegemonous process of underdevelopment, we found in some places (especially in Vanuatu) a lack of any kind of development in western economic terms and many people living almost entirely and relatively securely from subsistence agriculture. We found a genuine concern on the part of many of the governments of the independent nations with "grassroots development" - the slow process of improving village economic life and living conditions that avoids the big employment project approach of western economic development.



We found enormous differences between the countries we visited, not only between the Polynesian and Melanesian countries, or between the colonized and independent countries, but also between the independent Melanesian countries we visited. The differences in cultural tradition, economic development and party politics were remarkable between Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji - all independent Melanesian nations. Fiji in particular stands distinctly outside any generalizations to be made about Melanesia. The minority of the people are Melanesian, the majority are Indian. Both groups maintain their cultural identities and a social distance from each other that surprisingly does not appear to generate significant racial tensions. The Melanesian people in Fiji have adopted Polynesian social institutions and cultural traditions such as the Chiefly system that emphasizes Fiji's distinctness in the region.

Aid, Expatriates and Elites

A legacy of colonialism and something that plays a critical role in the economic development of the region is the role of expatriates and the dependence on western technical and business skills. This phenomenon is not uniform in the region. Fiji appears to employ relatively few expatriates, and while Vanuatu does employ expatriates in key positions, they are given no special status.

In PNG the dependency on the expatriate community is most pronounced and most problematic. Expatriate labour is not only actively solicited but is encouraged by far higher salaries than nationals in the same jobs are paid. The theory is that the technical skills of expatriates can be taught on the job to nationals, but this appears not to happen in practice. All too often an expatriate who has "gone finish" is replaced in the job by another expatriate. Our impression is of a high level of dependence on expatriates in all but the subsistence sector of the economy. But it seems that, as much as expatriates are welcomed by business and government, their presence is resented more broadly. Their high standard of living, provided as an incentive to employment, has resulted in the perpetuation of the widely held belief that the real expatriate role is to steal from nationals all that is rightfully theirs, including their land. Attacks on expatriates and their property are common and in some areas have led to a real paranoia within the expatriate community in PNG. The attacks are largely motivated by the gross disparity in material wealth between expatriates and nationals, and by the seeming impossibility of all but a few nationals to attain executive or managerial positions in business enterprises. The effect has been to continue the paternalistic (and racist) attitudes of the colonial era.



Clearly expatriate technical skills are needed in those countries without the training facilities for nationals. But all too often it becomes a self-perpetuating phenomenon as expatriate advisors and business leaders encourage the use of technologies that are beyond the scope of the local educational system to train nationals to maintain. There is a great deal of sophisticated technology utilized such as computers, airplanes, telecommunications equipment and medical equipment such as electrocardiograms whose use is encouraged by an expatriate community unused to life without access to these resources. In Vanuatu we heard a debate over whether the health department's slender resources should in part be spent on sophisticated medical equipment for Port Vila's hospitals or toward the staffing of rural health clinics with paramedical workers. The former option was being encouraged by the local elite of government workers and politicians and supported by expatriate doctors.

Inevitably there is an affinity between the expatriate community and the national elites who have often received the same education at tertiary or secondary levels abroad and have developed the same level of expectation for their personal standard of living. It is their level of education and experience abroad which enables them to play the key leadership roles at home.

### Nuclear Issues

The Pacific region faces the consequences of all aspects of the nuclear issue. Uranium is mined in Australia, nuclear weaponry is stored and deployed throughout the region, ships and submarines powered by nuclear reactors wander virtually without restriction through the ocean, bombs are repeatedly tested in Micronesia and Polynesia and there are plans to use the Pacific as the garbage dump of the west's nuclear wastes. The use of nuclear technology in the region highlights the military and strategic importance of the Pacific for the west and the continuing vulnerability of the area.

The loose coalition of groups and individuals who form the Movement for a Nuclear Free Pacific have succeeded despite the vast distances of the Pacific and the enormous disparity among islanders to challenge this abuse of the region in significant ways. In Belau, despite intense American opposition and manipulation, the islanders have successfully ratified a nuclear-free constitution. In Vanuatu, U.S. warships have been refused the right to dock because of the U.S. navy's refusal to guarantee the absence of nuclear weaponry aboard. From the Movement's headquarters in



Vanuatu (the Vanuatu-Pacific Community Centre) and Honolulu (the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre), a number of publications and posters are distributed through the region. A slide-show on the issue has also been used, but the lack of rural electrification in the Pacific makes its use limited.

There has been a growing awareness in the region that the use of nuclear technology in the Pacific is integrally linked to the issue of independence, and that there is no real hope of making the Pacific nuclear free until all the islands in the region are autonomous and independent. This awareness is reflected in the Movement's recent change of name to the Movement for a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific. The Movement is also aware of the need to build support and alliances with the Peace and Anti-Nuclear movements of all the Pacific Rim countries. They are also aware of the importance of the current negotiations on the Law of the Sea on the possible future deployment of nuclear technology in waters beyond the islands' current 200 mile economic zones.

The success of the Movement can be measured by the recent rise in the level of anti-Soviet propoganda in the Pacific region, and by the inordinant amount of time spent discussing the Soviet threat in the Pacific at the recent meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of State in the region. As the Soviets have only a tiny diplomatic and military presence in the area, there is reason to believe that there is in fact less concern with the Russians in the South Pacific than with the effect the Movement is having on the region's climate of opinion and aspirations for autonomy.

Conclusion

We feel that this short trip through the South Pacific will, if efforts can be sustained, result in a much greater information exchange between Canada and the Pacific. The tour has turned the two of us into advocates for greater attention to be paid to the problems facing the region and for more educational work and support work to be undertaken in Canada. We anticipate that, through the broadcast and other dissemination of the radio tapes and through the other work we intend to carry on an awareness of the Pacific as something other than vast expanses of empty sea and palm-fringed paradise islands can be built.





## FRENCH COLONIALISM IN THE PACIFIC

### MORUROA: THE SORE THAT WILL NOT HEAL

by Michael Hamel-Green

Since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a total of 238 nuclear bombs have been detonated in the Pacific region.

With the exception of two brief interludes in 1959-61 and 1963, the nuclear powers have been detonating bombs in the Pacific almost every year since Hiroshima. In their haste to develop new nuclear weapons, the nuclear powers have paid scant heed to the health and safety of Pacific people. The deadly harvest of 66 bombs exploded in the Marshalls between 1946 and 1958 took years to appear. Today epidemics of cancer and thyroid tumors plague the islanders, especially those who are most prone to radiation: children and pregnant women.

The cruel aftermath of the 92 bombs France has tested in French Polynesia over the past two decades is only now becoming evident. Radiation is an unforgiving phenomenon. The tests of ten or more years ago may well be forgotten, but the radioactive particles in the tissues of Pacific islanders do not forget - and the human price of these tests must still be paid in the currency of radiation-induced pain, suffering and death.

Ever since General De Gaulle initiated the French Pacific test programme in 1963, successive French governments have reassured Pacific people and the international community that there would be absolutely no harmful effects - but have cynically suppressed all statistics that might verify or disprove their claims. Beginning with the first tests in 1966, the French ceased issuing statistics on cancer and causes of death in the territory and have refused all requests for international monitoring of the health effects of the testing. Even the Mitterand Socialist government, which made pre-election pledges of greater openness on nuclear matters, has continued this policy of suppression.

"No trace of any radionuclide has been detected in the ocean, or in any ocean living creature (as a result of French underground testing)," said the Minister for Defense, Mr. Charles Hernu recently. But instead of permitting the independent scientific monitoring that might verify this claim, the French Government has chosen to embark on a public relations campaign to persuade Pacific governments that the tests are harmless. Yet, if the tests are harmless, what is to be lost by allowing international monitoring?

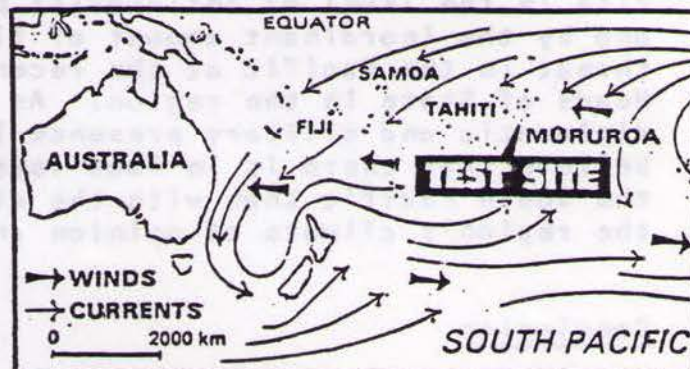
#### Health Problems Multiply at Alarming Rate

Over the last twelve months new information has come to light that gives a chilling glimpse into what the French authorities are trying to conceal - the blight of disease and contamination spreading outwards from the Moruroa test site.

Early in 1982, a French journalist, Luis Gonzales-Mata investigated reports of a cancer epidemic in French Polynesia for the highly respected Paris magazine, *Actuel*. Despite official attempts to prevent him from meeting people, Gonzales-Mata successfully interviewed Polynesians who had been sent to Paris for cancer treatment and islanders living close to the test site. He discovered that from 1976 onwards the

French authorities have been secretly sending large groups of Polynesians on military flights to Paris for treatment of unusual cancers. One of the most recent flight consisted of 50 Polynesians all suffering from brain cancer; they were taken to the Valde-Grace Hospital near Paris. A doctor at the hospital told Gonzales-Mata that the Polynesian patients were generally young adults during the period of French atmospheric testing (1966-74).

Gonzales-Mata succeeded in interviewing 29 of these patients after they returned to Tahiti. Other Polynesians suffering from cancer have privately sought treatment in New Zealand: between 1975 and 1978, the Dunedin Hospital alone treated 67 French Polynesians who had flown there for treatment of cancer. An army doctor working for the French Polynesian government estimates that 10% of the Polynesian population of the territory has now been sent overseas for treatment: of 98 overseas in 1979, 39 were cancer patients and 40 were children. Visiting island groups close to the Moruroa test site, Gonzales-Mata found abnormally high incidences of ulcers, miscarriages, and stomach troubles amongst Marquesas and Gambier islanders.



While much of the cancer appearing now can be attributed to the deadly fallout from the 41 atmospheric tests which France conducted between 1966 and 1974 - the result of ingestion into the body of radionuclides in contaminated fish, vegetables, air and rainwater used for drinking - there can be little confidence that the continuing underground tests (51 through mid-1982) will prove any less deadly in the long term.

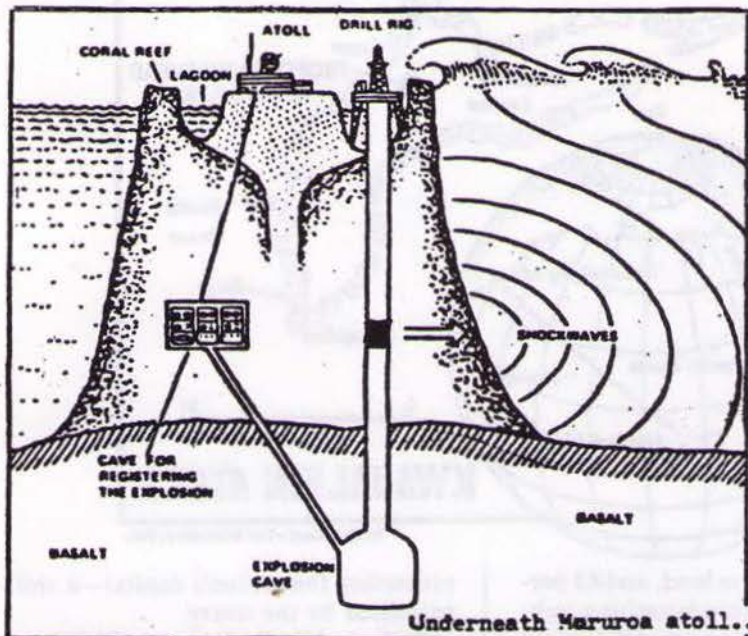
When the storm of international protest by Pacific peoples and governments forced the French to cease atmospheric testing at the end of 1974, the French Government turned to underground testing, arguing that this would be perfectly safe. Many people were sufficiently convinced to cease the active protests they mounted in the early seventies.

In Australia and New Zealand, the conservative governments that took office at the end of 1975, while opposing French underground testing, have conspicuously failed to take the same vigorous action taken in the early seventies which included appeals to the International Court of Justice and the sending of naval frigates into the Moruroa test zone. In Australia's case, the Fraser Government's will to resist French testing has been weakened by its wish to sell uranium to France.

#### French Technicians Expose Accidents

The complacent assumption that French underground testing is relatively safe was shattered, however, in late 1981, when the French and British Press published the findings of an





Underneath Moruroa atoll..

During the 1979 test, the bomb stuck halfway down the shaft. Nevertheless, French authorities went ahead with the test, which blew out the side of the atoll and caused a tidal wave.

internal report prepared by Atomic Energy Commission engineers and technicians working at Moruroa.

According to the engineers, repeated underground tests at the atoll were causing it to sink 2 centimetres after each test; since underground testing commenced, the atoll had sunk more than 1.5 metres. A second report from the same source said that a 30 centimetre wide, 800 metre long, crack had opened up on the atoll, and that radiation leakage into the ocean had been regularly occurring for years.

Equally disturbing were the details given in the reports of numerous serious accidents at the test site. On July 6, 1979, an explosion caused a fire in an underground laboratory, killing one worker and injuring four others. The laboratory explosion spewed lethal radioactive plutonium into the surrounding ocean water. On July 25, 1979, a large 140 kiloton bomb stuck halfway down the test shaft and was detonated where it had lodged; the resulting explosion registered 6.3 on the Richter scale, creating a localized tidal wave that washed over the atoll, injuring 7 people.

On March 22, 1981, a tropical storm ripped off asphalt covering several pounds of deadly plutonium (with a radioactive half life of 24,000 years) and flooded a 30,000-square metre radioactive waste storage area, washing much of the deadly debris in the sea. Defense Minister Hernu, in a September 1981 speech to the National Assembly, conceded that the March 22 accident had created a "new radiological situation" but denied that underground testing *per se* was causing any pollution; the waste washed into the sea was generated by French atmospheric testing, said Hernu, not its underground test programme.

#### Fish Poisoning Rise Linked to Tests

Further disturbing evidence that the French underground tests are dangerously contaminating the Pacific marine environment and food cycle has come from recent South Pacific Commission (SPC) and World Health Organization reports on the ominous increase in the region of *ciguatera*, the debilitating fish poisoning disease.

The disease may last for years, and is sometimes fatal. Victims suffer severe muscular and nerve pain, diarrhea, and paradoxical sensations (hot water feels cold and vice versa). The disease is caused by eating poisoned fish, which have become contaminated as a result of eating smaller fish feeding around ecologically disturbed coral reefs where the *ciguatera* microorganism has started proliferating excessively. Experts who have studied the cycle that produces outbreaks of the disease believe that the ecological changes associated with increases in the *ciguatera* microorganism may be due both to natural causes (earthquakes, storms) and manmade factors (pollution, shocks). Once part of a coral reef becomes infected with the organism, it tends to spread along the rest of the reef.

According to a SPC study in February 1981, there has been significant "flare-up of *ciguatera*" in the Gambier Islands, the closest group to the Moruroa test site. The epidemic was "preceded by the mass mortality of corals, which were found still dead in most of the grounds." According to the report, "human aggression on the living coral environment" is one of the most likely causes of *ciguatera* in the Gambiers. Although the report did not specify the human aggression of nuclear tests to which it was referring, the most likely candidates seem to be the pollution and seismic shocks emanating from the Moruroa test site.

#### Anti-French Test Campaign Picks Up

A new movement is beginning to develop amongst Pacific peoples to force the French - and all other nuclear powers - out of the Pacific.

Early in 1982, 1000 Ni-Vanuatu demonstrated outside the French embassy in Vanuatu against continued French testing. Later in the year, two protest yachts, Pacific Peacemaker and Greenpeace III, made separate protest voyages into the Moruroa test zone. Anti-nuclear organizations in Australia have launched boycott actions against the French airline UTA and French products and services; and further actions are planned at French embassies in early 1983.

But the problem is not confined to French Polynesia. Ocean currents sweep past Moruroa to Fiji, the Cook Islands, Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Migratory fish, such as tuna and bonito, may become contaminated with *ciguatera* toxin in French Polynesia, yet be caught and consumed anywhere in the South Pacific. Already there have been unusual outbreaks of *ciguatera* in other parts of the South Pacific, including the Queensland coast of Australia.

Pacific people are demanding:

- Immediate cessation of French nuclear testing in the Pacific;
- Release of French Polynesian health and cancer statistics;
- Compensation and adequate medical treatment for all victims of French testing;
- International monitoring of the health and environmental effects of the testing;
- A timetable for the granting of independence to French territories in the Pacific.

In a moving speech to the Pacific Trade Union Forum in September 1982, Jean-Marie Tjibaud, Vice-President of the New Caledonian Territorial Assembly, warned his audience of trade unionists from all over the Pacific:

"The great ocean that surrounds us carries the seeds of life. We must ensure that they don't become the seeds of death. These matters are our responsibility, and we must face them to live and protect our lives."



# KWAJALEIN: KEY TO FIRST STRIKE

By Robert C. Aldridge

Two crucial elements of America's emerging first strike capability depend heavily on Kwajalein Atoll for development. They are very precise strategic nuclear missiles to destroy Soviet land targets and an integrated system of interceptors and sensors to shoot down Russian ballistic missiles. But the four month long "Operation Homecoming"—a sail-in protest during 1982 against the Compact of Free Association and appalling living conditions on Ebeye—combined with growing Marshallese resistance to missile testing is threatening the Pentagon's future plans.

In 1959 Kwajalein Atoll, the largest in the world, located 2,000 miles southwest of Hawaii, became the terminal end of the Pacific Missile Range where weapons fired from Vandenberg Air Base in California splash down. Later, as US missiles became more accurate, two-thirds of the enclosed lagoon created by the atoll became the impact area and the people who once inhabited the adjacent islands were moved to Ebeye near the southern tip of the atoll. Kwajalein, the southernmost and largest island, from which the atoll gets its name, has been taken over completely by the US military. Former inhabitants have also been relocated to Ebeye, four miles away, where 8,000 people now crowd onto 66 acres and live in slum conditions. About 700 wage-earners commute to Kwajalein by ferry where they perform menial work at close to US minimum wages. But they are not allowed to remain on the island overnight. Neither can they shop at stores, receive medical attention, or avail themselves of other US facilities.

The personal hardships endured and the drudge tasks performed by the Marshallese people supports development of the two first strike weapons systems mentioned above. Let us look at them. To inflict a disarming and unanswerable first strike against the USSR, the United States would have to destroy all Soviet strategic weapons. Very accurate US missiles would accomplish most of the disarming since three-quarters of all Russian strategic bombs are on land-based missiles, its intercontinental

bombers are based on land, and 85 percent of Soviet missile-launching submarines are always in port. All of these weapons could be attacked by US missiles.

The very precise US missiles needed for such an attack—the improved accuracy Trident-1, the Trident-2 and MX—have been or will be flight tested on the Pacific Missile Range. Kwajalein will gather information on final trajectory and reentry, the efficiency of chaff and decoys to mask real warheads, and warhead impact data. This information will be used to achieve pinpoint bombing.

The theory of probability, however, precludes 100 percent destruction of Soviet weapons. To make a first strike completely unanswerable those surviving missiles must be shot down before they reach the United States. An important function of Kwajalein has been to develop anti-ballistic-missiles (ABMs) using test missiles launched from Vandenberg as targets. Nike-Zeus and Nike-X interceptors were tested there in the early 1960s; and later the Spartan and Sprint ABMs.

Since the ABM Treaty of 1972, modified by a 1974 protocol, limits the US and USSR to only 100 interceptors at one site each, it seems that the importance of Kwajalein should have diminished. During the mid-'70s Congress prohibited spending for testing new ABM "systems"—that is, the interaction and complete integration of sensors, interceptors, launchers and other components. Nevertheless, development of separate and new components continued. And development went on at Kwajalein for the so-called Site Defense; ostensibly preparing to relocate the allowed ABM site from defending missile silos to

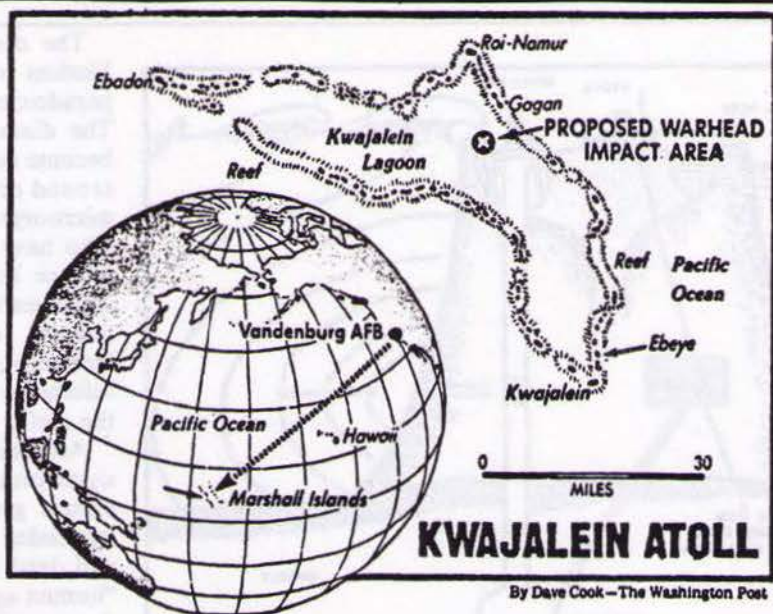
protecting the nation's capital—a shift permitted by the treaty.

Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD), as ABM activities are presently called, has now become a big program. Although the American people are led to believe that BMD is defensive and benign, it is crucial to a first strike capacity. It would negate deterrence and allow the US to perpetrate a first strike with impunity. Any surviving weapons could easily be knocked down if they are launched in a return salvo. US Senator Pete V. Domenici says military studies indicate that by 1991 the US could destroy 96 percent of all Soviet warheads launched against American silos. Such a leak-proof barrier has frightening implications.

The Kwajalein Missile Range is central to developing two layers of a BMD system—low-altitude and mid-course. The former officially started in December 1979 using hypervelocity "energetic" interceptor missiles with nuclear bombs. They "home" on enemy warheads which penetrate the higher mid-course layer. Detection and tracking is performed by the small phased-array radars on Meck Island.

Mid-course defense intercepts enemy warheads or missiles while they are traveling through space. Several non-nuclear, non-explosive interceptors are rocketed into space on a single missile. They then use infrared or radar sensors to get on a collision course with separate targets to destroy those targets by impact at a relative speed of 27,000 miles per hour.

Many islands on the atoll are used to develop these two first strike elements. Kwajalein island is the headquarters. Telescopic cameras, infrared laser-radars and other missile tracking equipment dot at least 7 islands in the atoll.



By Dave Cook—The Washington Post



Amid all this macabre activity to achieve a first strike capability, two things have happened to put a kink in Pentagon plans. First is that there is strong grass roots opposition to the Compact of Free Association which, if approved by voters, will grant the U.S. 30 years use of the Kwajalein Missile Range. And the current lease, signed in October 1982, expires in 3 years. If the Compact is defeated in the upcoming plebiscite, the Pentagon will be without a lease on KMR in 1985.

Second there is a growing feeling among Kwajalein landowners against further military use of their islands. In a press statement in April, 1982 Kwajalein leaders said they know that a few thousand people "cannot prevent a superpower from developing nuclear weapons. But we can insure our islands shall not be used for such a purpose."

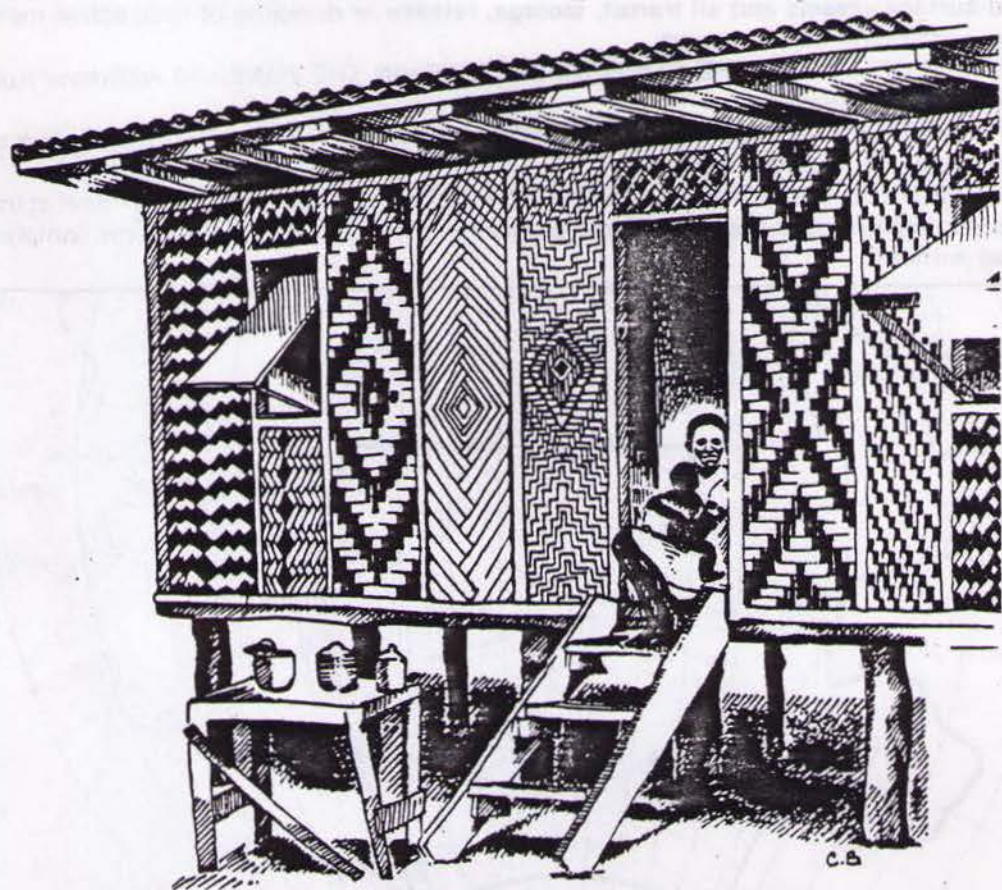
The Marshallese may be underestimating their power. Major General Grayson D. Tate, BMD program manager, said the US possesses no comparable facility to Kwajalein for developing the ability to identify warheads in space, to record warhead reentry phenomenon, to provide terminal trajectory and impact data, to recover warhead structures, and to transmit all of this data instantaneously via satellite to mission sponsors in the United States.

Moreover, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that "it would cost as much as \$2 billion...to set up a similar testing establishment elsewhere. What's more important, military strategists say, is that it would be extremely difficult to find a comparable site that missile could reach without flying them over major population centers." Stopping first strike activity at Kwajalein could considerably delay a first strike capability.

The Kwajalein islanders are in a unique position to make the world better. Conditions there are shaping up for another reenactment of the old axiom that the future of many rests in the hands of a few.

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Robert C. Aldridge is an aerospace engineer who helped design strategic missiles. Now a critic of the arms race he is engaged in research aimed at better public understanding of military programs.





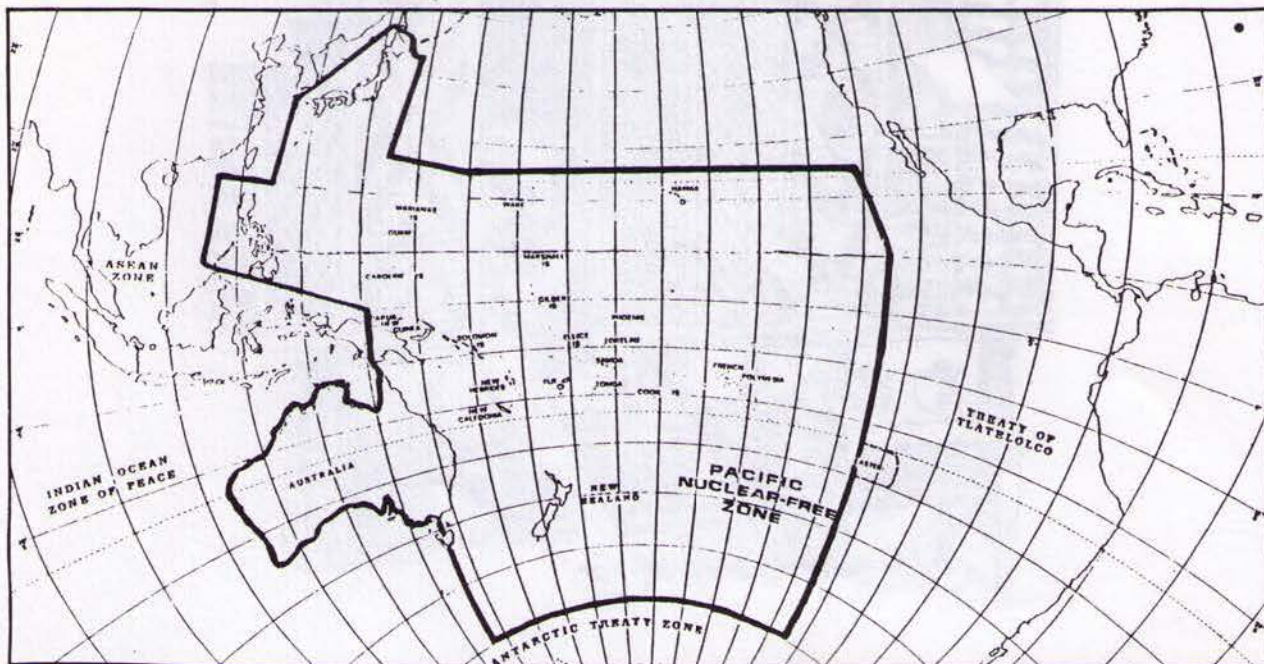
# FOR A NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC

**THE PEOPLE'S CHARTER** for Nuclear Free Pacific was drafted at the 1975 Nuclear Free Pacific Conference (NFPC) and reaffirmed at the NFP conference in Ponape in 1978. It embraces the goals of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement

## THE CHARTER:

We being inhabitants of the Pacific

1. CONVINCED that our peoples and our environment have been exploited enough by superpowers;
2. ASSERTING that nuclear powers in the Pacific are operating here against our will, from territories administered or claimed by them as colonies;
3. BELIEVING that the political independence of all peoples is fundamental to attaining a Nuclear Free Pacific;
4. BELIEVING that nuclear tests in the Pacific and the resultant radiation constitute a threat to the health, livelihood and security of the inhabitants;
5. BELIEVING that nuclear tests and missile tests are the major means by which the armaments race maintains its momentum;
6. BELIEVING that the presence of nuclear weapons, nuclear reactors, nuclear powered vessels and nuclear wastes in the Pacific endangers the lives of the inhabitants;
7. RECOGNIZING the urgent need for ending the use and manufacture of nuclear weapons;
8. DESIRING to contribute towards the ending of the armaments race;
9. and NOTING that a nuclear free zone is not an end in itself but only a step towards total, worldwide nuclear disarmament, have agreed as follows:
10. ARTICLE 1: THAT A PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE BE DECLARED, including all that area of the South Pacific bounded by the Tlatelolco (Latin America), Antarctic, Indian Ocean and ASEAN zones, and including all of Micronesia, Australia, the Philippines, Japan and Hawaii;
11. ARTICLE 2: THAT THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE PACIFIC WILL NOT permit any of the following activities or installations within this zone:
  - a) all tests of nuclear explosive devices including those described as "peaceful";
  - b) all nuclear weapon test facilities;
  - c) all tests of nuclear weapon delivery vehicles and systems;
  - d) all storage, transit, deployment or any other form of presence of nuclear weapons on land or aboard ships, submarines and aircraft within;
  - e) all bases carrying out command, control, communication, surveillance, navigation, and any other functions which aid the performance of a nuclear weapon delivery system;
  - f) all nuclear power reactors, excepting very low capacity experimental units, all nuclear powered satellites, surface and sub-surface vessels and all transit, storage, release or dumping of radioactive material;
  - g) uranium mining, processing and transport;
12. ARTICLE 3: THAT THE PEOPLES AND THE GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE ZONE will withdraw from all mutual defense alliances with nuclear powers;
13. ARTICLE 4: THAT THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS SIGNATORY TO THIS CHARTER will work to ensure the withdrawal of colonial powers from the Pacific;
14. ARTICLE 5: THAT THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS SIGNATORY TO THIS CHARTER will meet at intervals of not more than three years to explore ways of extending the geographical extent of the zone and the comprehensiveness of the bans enforced within it.





15

# IF IT IS SAFE;

- DUMP IT IN TOKYO
- TEST IT IN PARIS
- STORE IT IN WASHINGTON



## BUT,

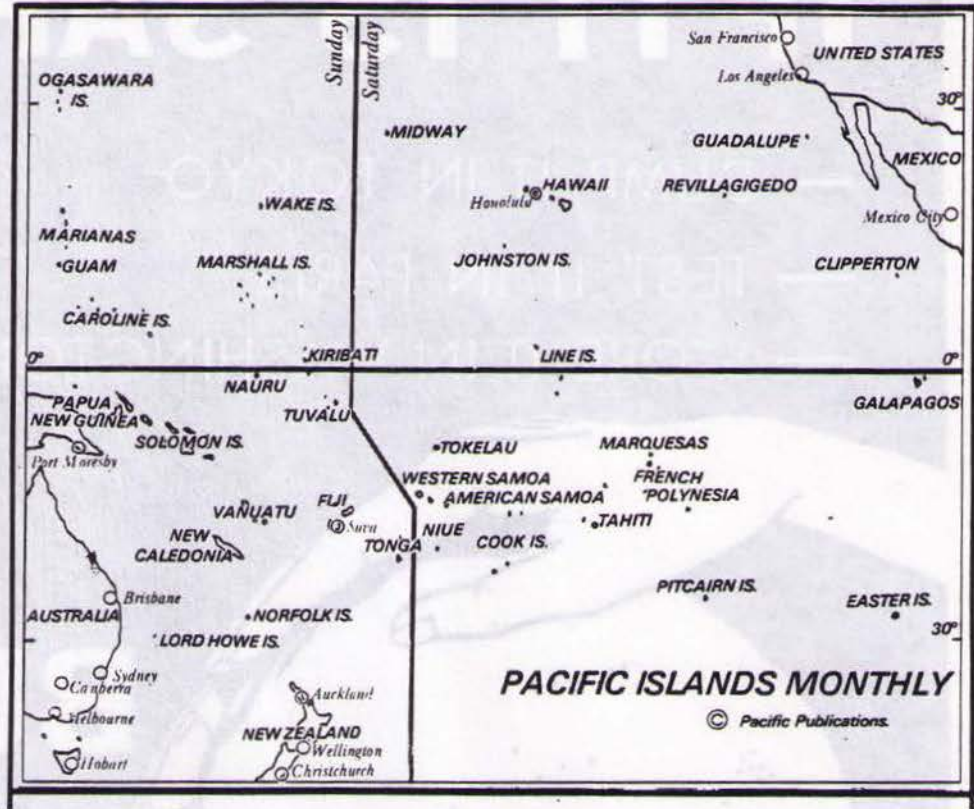
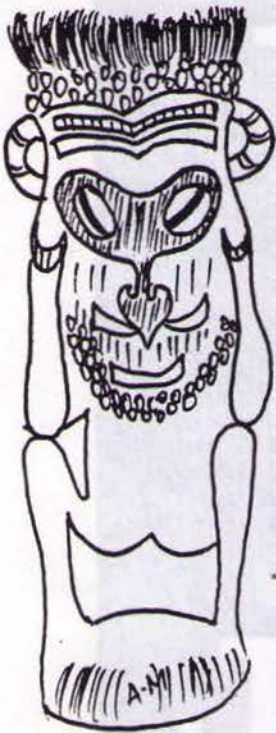
## KEEP MY

# PACIFIC NUCLEAR-FREE

Pacific Conference of Churches

This poster, produced by the Pacific Conference of Churches, is available for \$5 (includes postage and mailing tube) from SPPF. The poster is in black and green and measures 16" x 24". Send cash or cheque to SPPF at 303-620 View St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J6





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PEOPLES  
FOUNDATION  
OF CANADA

TO:

303-620 View St.  
Victoria, British Columbia  
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