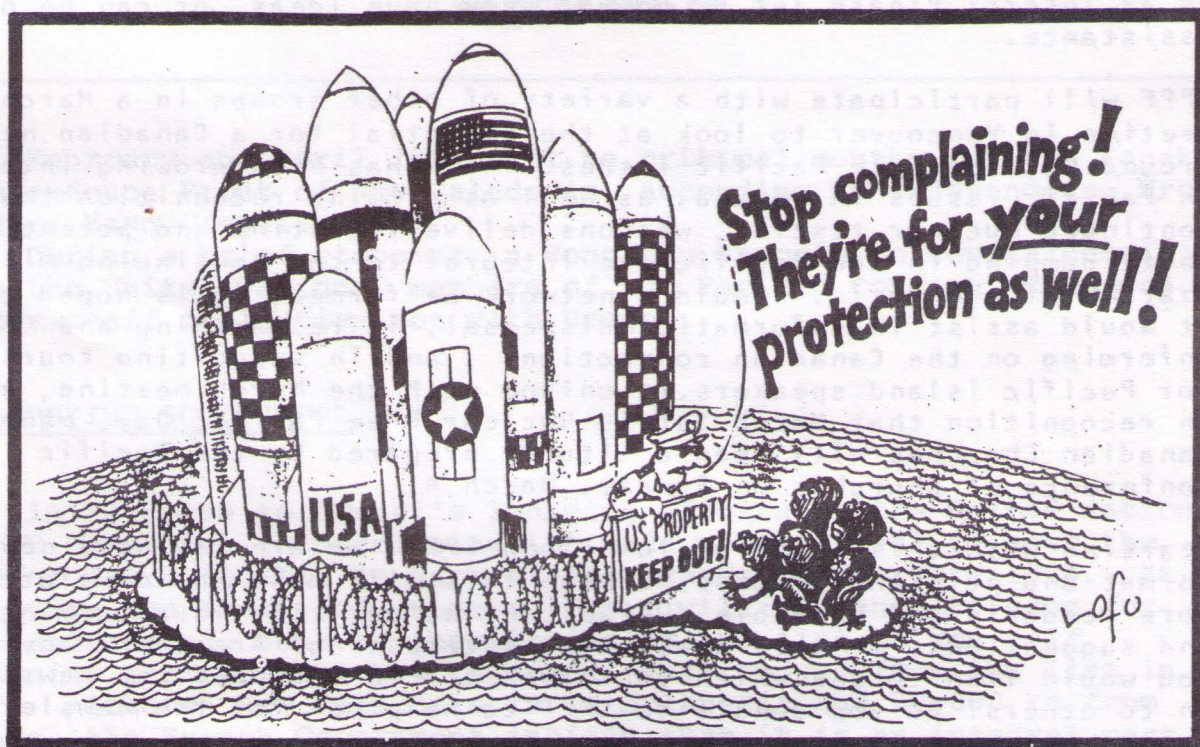


Tok Blong SPPF

#7

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SPPF UPDATE

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a brochure on nuclear free and independent Pacific issues, which we have just produced. We are hoping to give the brochure wide distribution and ask for your assistance and suggestions in this regard. Are there groups you are active with who might be interested in having the brochure? Do you have a newsletter which could have the brochure as an insert? Please let us know if you have ideas, or can be of assistance.

SPPF will participate with a variety of other groups in a March 1-2 meeting in Vancouver to look at the potential for a Canadian network around nuclear free Pacific issues. There has been growing interest in Pacific issues in Canada, as well as growing recognition that continued nuclear testing, weapons delivery testing and potential waste dumping in the Pacific are integral to the continuing militarization of the world. Should a network be formed, it is hoped that it would assist in information dispersal, in researching and informing on the Canadian connections, and in supporting tours for Pacific island speakers. In unison with the March meeting, and in recognition that March 1st is Nuclear Free Pacific Day, many Canadian Churches will read a liturgy prepared by the Pacific Conference of Churches on Sunday, March 4.

Starting with this issue of Tok Blong SPPF, we are trying a new format and printing process. We hope this will make the newsletter more readable and handable. We welcome at any time your comments and suggestions. Is this newsletter interesting? Are there any items you would like to see which you haven't? Do you pass the newsletter on to others? Do you donate to SPPF to help pay for the newsletter?

SPPF thanks you for your continuing support of our efforts.



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).

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New Caledonia Update

February and April 1984 will be critical months for the Kanak Independence Front of New Caledonia, according to Independence Front leader, Yann Uregei.

During a brief stopover in Honolulu enroute to New Caledonia from the United Nations, members of the Pacific Concerns Resource Center staff collective met with Uregei.

UN LORBYING SUCCESSFUL

In response to Uregei's lobbying efforts at the United Nations, the UN Committee on Decolonization made a commitment to hear the case of New Caledonia as part of its agenda in February 1984. At that time the Kanak Independence Front will present its case for independence and seek re-inscription on the list of non-self governing territories. New Caledonia was removed from the list in 1947. Although New Caledonia is in Melanesia and 20,000 km from France, the French Government insists that it is an integral part of France and its political status an internal matter. Re-inscription on the list for decolonization will bring UN supervision and pressure to bear on France to grant independence to New Caledonia according to a definite timetable and principles of international law.

Uregei's lobbying was supported by all of the South Pacific nations except Fiji and Australia. When the prime ministers from the South Pacific Forum nations, excluding Australia and Fiji, addressed the opening session of the UN General Assembly, each recognized the aspirations of the Kanak people for independence and urged France to take concrete steps to grant the Kanak people self-determination.

APRIL STATUTE

In April 1984, the Mitterrand Government will conduct a vote in New Caledonia on a statute regarding the future political status of New Caledonia. The content and wording of the statute will be developed by the French National Assembly. At this time it is unclear whether independence will be one of the statutes. Up to now, the Mitterrand Government supports autonomy for New Caledonia but does not support independence.

According to Uregei, the Front has taken the position that the option of independence must be included in the statute or the Front will withdraw from further discussions with the Mitterrand Government and boycott the voting process. In addition, the Front has also stipulated that there must be election reforms before the voting is held. Specifically, the reforms must exclude short term or non-permanent residents from voting.

* FROM PACIFIC BULLETIN *

Canadians can support the Kanak Independence Front at this critical moment by urging our government to support the re-inscription of New Caledonia on the list of non-self-governing territories that is monitored by the UN Committee on Decolonization, in February 1984.

Also, cables can be sent to the Mitterrand Government supporting the Front's demands for election reforms and for the inclusion of independence as an option in the statute that will be voted on in April. ■

LINI AT U.N.

Walter Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, addressed the United Nations General Assembly on September 30, 1983, and made the following comments concerning the situation in New Caledonia.

"New Caledonia is another non-self-governing territory in the South Pacific, and another example of why we have a United Nations. It is also another matter which calls for us, the international community, to '...tell no lies, claim no easy victories...'

"New Caledonia is the world's second largest producer of nickel. Therefore, the struggle by its people to gain their independence has and will, undoubtedly, continue to pose a second question. Who will control the enormous economic potential of this small developing country?

"Without a doubt, all of us here today are well aware of the role that economics played in the colonization of most of the world. We are also certainly aware of the fact that it is the mineral wealth of Namibia and the mineral wealth of South Africa which lies behind the complicated political web spun by those who do not wish to see the people of those countries control their own resources. New Caledonia's people face similar obstacles for the same reasons.

"In New Caledonia, as in southern Africa, the settler population usually acts contrary to the interests of the indigenous population. This the world understands and has come to expect.

"What is less well understood, however, is that the settler population, having its own narrow and specific interests to protect, often acts contrary as well to the broader interests of the metropolitan power. Such became the case in Algeria and in Zimbabwe. Such is the case in Namibia and in South Africa. And such is the case in New Caledonia.

"Generally speaking, metropolitan powers do not have direct interests in the maintenance of rigid and exclusionary social codes which hamper economic growth and development. This is particularly true when those social codes, by whatever name they are called, are operable far from the physical environs of the metropole. Thus, apartheid or segregation comes to be seen as outmoded, unnecessary and even threatening to the broader, more general economic interests of the metropole. Eventually, the metropole may, for its own purposes, even seek to appear to be playing a leading role in ending a particular odious social code.

"Naturally, none of this occurs overnight. It takes time for the contradiction to arise, more time for it to be recognized, and even more time for the effort to reconcile it to be put into operation. In the meantime, those who have been victims of the social code usually have begun their own process of change. Generally speaking, what they have in mind is a more far-reaching and fundamental change.

"The metropole then faces a dilemma. On the one hand, it is, in a sense, captive to a restive and obstinate settler population. On the other hand, it finally realizes that its long-term interests are best served by making a more reasonable and rational accommodation with the indigenous population. Its main preoccupation now becomes how to buy itself sufficient time to make the necessary accommodation and how to balance the competing antagonisms of the settlers and the indigenous population.

"In this respect, New Caledonia differs from South Africa primarily in the nature of the metropole. South Africa no longer has one easily identifiable metropole. France, on the other hand, is clearly the identifiable metropolitan power to which both the settlers and the indigenous population now petition.

"New Caledonia is similar to South Africa in the hardened racial attitudes of some of its European settlers. The indigenous Kanak population is to them not worthy of the basic and elemental dignity, respect and legal rights that most human beings are now able to take for granted. Many of these intransigent settlers are former "colons" who left Algeria after the notorious OAS, or "secret army," failed in its efforts to abort Algeria's independence and to murder the late Charles deGaulle, the then President of France, in the process.

"The people of New Caledonia have extended a warm and open hand of friendship to all who would work together in a free and independent nation. Theirs is a vision of a non-exclusionary South Pacific nation in which all human beings would be treated as equals.

"We believe that the Government of France is sincerely searching for answers to the questions raised concerning New Caledonia's future. The reforms that France has introduced have certainly helped, and demonstrate a good faith commitment to an effort to find some common ground upon which the competing interests may be reconciled.

"At its most recent meeting last month in Canberra, Australia, the South Pacific Forum took note of France's efforts in this regard. However, we, the South Pacific Heads of Government, also declared our support for independence in New Caledonia, and we urged the French Government '...in conducting any act of self-determination...' to consider '...the desirability of excluding from the franchise...' short term or non-permanent residents in New Caledonia. This is in recognition of the fact that, to be valid, an exercise of self-determination must be by the people of a particular country themselves, and not include others who have not even lived there, but

who were brought there and permitted to vote in order to outweigh the wishes of the legitimate population.

"In its totality, the Canberra Communique supports the right of self-determination. It urges the various sectors of the population to work closely with France to assure a peaceful transition to independence. It is laudable in its aims and practical in its approach, including its decision to review the situation next year and to consider '...the desirability of re-inscription of New Caledonia on the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories.'

"The Government of Vanuatu is confident that New Caledonia will soon assume its rightful place as an independent nation. Toward that end, we urge members of the United Nations to keep themselves fully apprised of the situation in this economically important land and to support the initiatives of New Caledonia's people, as have the Governments of the South Pacific." ■



ANGLICANS SPEAK

The Primates, the principal bishops of the Anglican community, met at Nairobi, Kenya, from 8th to 12th October, 1983. They made the following comment as part of their additional statement:

"We stand with and alongside the weak. At this time we speak particularly for the small, defenceless island countries of the Pacific. The very existence of their people is threatened by nuclear tests and dumping of nuclear waste. We call on the countries responsible, in the name of God and humanity, to desist.

"We have singled out these island people and their need because they are so far away from many and liable to be forgotten. But our plea and prayer is for the weak and threatened everywhere."



Ici, ce n'est pas la France

Over a century of French colonial rule reduced the Kanaks – New Caledonia's original inhabitants – to the status of an enfeebled minority. But the winds of change are now gathering force. Cameron Forbes reports.

WHEN I first met Yann Uregai in 1978 he was already a leader of the Kanak Liberation Movement which had just emerged from the underground. A non-violent man who would not talk of waging guerilla warfare, Uregai forecast a violent struggle for New Caledonia's independence: 'There will be civil war and the first people to use their guns will be the white settlers from Algeria. They have already formed an action committee against independence.'

Next year is the 130th anniversary of French annexation of the Pacific island group known as New Caledonia. For the Kanaks (the name the indigenous Melanesian people give themselves) the colonial experience has been bitter. They have been oppressed, dispossessed and decimated, becoming a powerless minority in their own land.

Of the population of 140,000, just over 40 per cent are Kanaks, 36 per cent Europeans, 12 per cent Polynesians and the remaining 9 per cent of various national origins. Two thirds of the whites were born in New Caledonia and an increasing number see independence as inevitable. Yet most whites still cling closely to their political and cultural links with France. And many Polynesians, worried about potential Kanak dominance, support the anti-independence movement. In the past five years there have been political killings and New Caledonia is now a political minefield for the French government as it tries to satisfy the aspirations and dampen the fears of a bitterly divided people.

The central problems are land and political power. The Kanaks were systematically robbed of their land and of control over the country's rich nickel deposits. On the main island, Grande Terre, the territory government owns almost two thirds of the land, a further 25 per cent is in the hands of fewer than 1000 white settlers and the remaining

11 per cent (the least fertile) supports 24,000 Kanaks.

Kanaks have recently overcome divided loyalties and a French gerrymander to gain control of local government. With the support of a small centre party they hold a majority in the legislative assembly. The leading figure is Nidoishe Naisseline, a sociology graduate from the Sorbonne and now high chief of the island of Mare. He has been jailed several times. The first occasion was in March 1972, when he was imprisoned for six months for remarking to a uniformed French administrator: 'It is not France here. I couldn't give a damn about your uniform. The man behind it is an imbecile.'

There has been an interesting role reversal between Uregai and Naisseline. When I first met them Uregai was cautious but determined. Now he wants independence as soon as possible. But Naisseline is willing to wait longer, saying that economic independence is as important as political independence and much groundwork remains to be done.

In 1979, when Mitterand and the French Socialist Party were still in opposition, they pledged support for Kanak independence. In power they have moved slowly but recently the pace has picked up. The French government portrays New Caledonia as being in an evolutionary process, with autonomy as the first step. It has recognised the innate right to independence of the Kanak people, proposed a senate of traditional chiefs and declared the aim of encouraging self-determination.

If this promises much for the Kanaks, it will undoubtedly be regarded as a threat by many Europeans and Polynesians. Last year right-wingers reacted to the electoral success of pro-independence groups by storming the legislative assembly and attacking members with clubs. In May this year a crowd of 30,000 marched through the capital city of Noumea (population: 42,000) in a show of anti-independence sentiment directed at the French Minister for Overseas Territories.

The forces of history seem to be swinging in favour of the Kanaks, who say that other racial groups will be welcome in an independent New Caledonia provided they recognise the Kanaks' special position. But the chances of a bloodless transition to independence will depend greatly on the Kanaks' ability to win over Europeans by moderation and on the determination of the French government to stamp out anti-independence extremism.

Cameron Forbes is Foreign Editor of the *Melbourne Age*.



*FROM: NEW INTERNATIONALIST
- OCTOBER, 1983 - *

A RARE MEETING

ENCOUNTER WITH FRENCH MINISTER: "I Swam in Moruroa and I'm OK."

On March 1, 1983, Roman Bedor and Shorty O'Neill, the Aboriginal Ambassador to Europe and North America, together with other anti-nuke people, on behalf of the people of the Pacific, presented to the French government more than 92,000 petitions from 76 countries around the world protesting the French nuclear testing in Moruroa. In the meeting which ensued, Monsieur Phillippe Petit, assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, emphasized the safety of the underground testing. M. Petit refused to admit that many Polynesians, victimized by the radiation caused by the testing, are sent to France for treatment. He showed a striking ignorance of the nature of radiation and a shameless lack of sincerity as he claimed the safety of the testing by saying: "I swam in Mururoa lagoon when I was there [last year] and here I am, look at me. I am OK." He also exposed the colonialistic nature of the French government when he justified the testing by saying that Tahiti and all the islands in French Polynesia including the Mururoa atoll are part of France. The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the meeting:

Monsieur Petit: ...The word genocide,
(P) according to me, should not be in the text. No one has been affected by the French nuclear testing in the Pacific and it has been going on for many years. Last year in July I was in French Polynesia and I can assure you that the French testing is safe. I swam in Moruroa lagoon when I was there and here I am--look at me. I am OK.

Shorty O'Neill: ...If the testing is
(S) safe then why are you not letting other scientists go there and study the area? Already there are Maohi people, an indigenous people from Polynesia, who are here in this country at the Army hospital for treatment and no one is allowed to see them and....

(P): That is not true. No one has been affected by the French testings. The French testing in the Pacific is not like the American testing in the Pacific. These are safe because they

are done underground. The Americans did a lot of atmospheric tests in the Pacific and that has affected many people, I am told.

(S): Is this a picture of the underground test or an atmospheric test?
(Shorty was showing a picture of the atmospheric testing in Moruroa, one of 3,500 and some postcards that were sent all over the world as protest against the French government. The postcard campaign was organized by Greenpeace of New Zealand and they were taken to Amsterdam by their representative. From there Shorty and Roman took them to Paris.)

(P): It is an atmospheric test but that was stopped several years ago. The underground testing is safe--no radiation. The Americans are conducting more underground tests than France per year. Over 50 tests are done in Nevada every year close to Las Vegas, and Las Vegas is a tourist spot of the United States and no one is complaining because it is safe.

Roman Bedor: ...There is opposition
(R) in the United States against the nuclear testing in Nevada. It is also very hard for me to believe that your testing in Moruroa is also safe because it is underground and that there is no radiation. Did you know that as a result of your tests in Moruroa the islands have sunk several feet into the ocean? I am wondering why, if it is safe, it cannot be done here in France or some other place in Europe.

(P): Well, as I have stated earlier, it is safe. I was there last year and I swam in the lagoon and look--here I am. I still have very good health.

(S): I hope ten years from now or twenty years from now you will still have that good health.

(R): You know that it takes several years for people to realize that they are suffering from the radiation of nuclear bombs. That is what is hap-

pening with the people of the Marshalls today and also with the American soldiers who were in the Marshalls at the time of the testing. Many of them swam in the lagoon like you.

(P): I am sure if there is opposition to the testing in Nevada by the people of the United States they would have reported it in the media in the United States.

(R): ...You deal with only government people and these people will tell you that it is safe and no one is being affected or no one is complaining. But if you deal with the American Indians and other people close to the site, you will hear a different story. The media in the United States would not tell you here in France or in Europe that there is opposition against the Nevada tests. It is the people. Even the government of the United States will not tell you that.

(P): Do you think that media is really being controlled as you have said?

(R): Certainly. As I said, the U.S. media are just like the media you have here in Europe. For instance, if in Polynesia the people bomb a French post office then it will make headlines here in all the papers and on all the televisions, but when the government of France explodes more than 90 nuclear bombs on the island it gets no coverage at all. And if Japanese fishermen spear whales it gets big coverage in the U.S. papers, but if the U.S. government spears the Pacific islands with missiles from California, it gets no publicity.

(S): You know it strikes me that you probably do not trust your scientists. They have advised you that the nuclear testing is safe and yet you have not moved it to France and you are still doing it in Moruroa.

(P): We do trust our scientists and we believe them when they say that it is safe because they are specialists in the field.

(S): Then if you believe them and they have told you that it is safe, why don't

you do your testing here in France?

(P): Well Tahiti and all the islands in French Polynesia including the Moruroa atoll is France and that is why we are doing it there.

(S): I mean France itself, not the islands in the Pacific. You can do it here where your people are instead of using the Maohi people or the indigenous people there for your testing program.

(R): Your statement does not make any sense to me and I am sure it does not make any sense to all the people of the Pacific. How can you say that Tahiti and all the islands nearby are France? It is stupid to say that when there is a big ocean between France and those islands down there. The fact that your colonial system exists in those places does not really make them France as you want them to be. What it does is show that your law is the supreme law there and those people are forced to follow it. They are not France and the people there will also tell you that.

(P): Well, I am sorry but that is what the constitution of France says at the present: they are France and if they do not want to be France then the laws have to be changed.

(S): The people of New Caledonia are fighting for their independence and they will change that law because you cannot change it for them. They are entitled to independence and the colonial system there has messed up a lot of things.

(P): It is unfortunate that some of the mess there was caused by colonialism, but since last year there have been a lot of improvements. Independence will come for them when the time comes.

(R): I want to go back to the testing program, which is the reason why we are here. How long do you think your government will continue to use Moruroa for a testing ground? And how many tests per year is your government conducting there?

(P): As long as it takes us to perfect our weapons to defend us from Russia

and the United States and I am afraid that it will take many years. We are conducting 12 nuclear tests in one year. You must know that when we say to defend us we are talking about defending the people of French Polynesia too.

(R): That is strange, and it is very hard for me to believe that. First you destroy them and their society and then you are going to defend them. The people of New Caledonia and their society are being threatened by your government. They are not being protected by you guys and that is why they want to be liberated from France.

(P): I have been very fair and frank with you. The people of France had a referendum on whether France should have nuclear weapons or not. Many people voted in favor of having nuclear weapons to protect us from Russia and the United States.

(S): That is fine with you but it is not good for the people of Tahiti and all the islands there. If it is safe then why don't you do your test here in France?

(P): We know that the French nuclear testing in the Pacific is safe and we

are not against other scientists going there to study the area.

(R): I am glad that you have stated that because the organization that I belong to in the Pacific wants to organize an independent group of medical doctors and scientists to study Moruroa and all the nearby islands and...

(S): His organization is P.C.R.C. and it represents all the organizations throughout the Pacific and Pacific Rim countries that are working for the independent and nuclear-free Pacific.

(P): What is P.C.R.C.?

(R): It is Pacific Concerns Resource Center and as Shorty said it represents the organizations in the Pacific and the Rim Countries that are working for the nuclear-free and independent Pacific. But I will go on about the medical survey that I was talking about earlier because that seems to be of your concern too. Sooner or later we will be able to form this group and so since you do not have any objection to other scientists going to Polynesia to make a survey there on the testing, what I want to ask you now is to assist us in obtaining visas for the medical team to be there. You know it is very hard

NON A LA BOMBE
EN POLYNESIE



to obtain visas to go there.

(P): Well anyone who wants to go to French Polynesia must obtain visas...

(R): We are well aware of that and that is the reason why I am asking your assistance to get visas for the medical team to go there. You have been saying that the testing there is safe and that you have no objection to the scientists going there to make a study of the area. I think that it is only through an independent medical team or scientists going there to study the area that we can find the real result of whether it is safe or not. Who knows? The result of the independent medical survey may prove that you are right and we are wrong and it will not be at the expense of your government.

(P): It is a free country and anyone can go there and talk with anyone there.

(R): That is what you say, but on some occasions the government there had been operating in a different way. Last year, the Pacific Peacemaker was sailing on its way to the United States to take part in a blockade against deployment of the Trident submarine and on their way they wanted to go to Moruroa to see for themselves if the testing was safe but the French boat there rammed the Peacemaker causing extensive damage and its skipper and everyone was placed under arrest and taken to Papeete to stand trial. I think this can clearly show that the government there does not want people to go there to study about the French testing and the effects on the people. I am not convinced that your testing is safe and no one else in the Pacific is convinced either. Pacific Concerns Resource Center has called for the immediate end of French testing. The Pacific Conference of Churches, Pacific Trade Union Forum, South Pacific Commission, South Pacific Forum and the people of the Pacific have all been protesting against your tests because they too are not convinced that your testing is safe. The only way to convince us in the Pacific that your test is safe is either to do it here in France or to let the independent medical survey study the area. The independent medical survey is really

needed.

(P): Well if there is a request from an international organization to do a medical survey in the area then we will consider it, but you know Moruroa is under the military and they may not agree with your going there.

(R): Pacific Concerns Resource Center is an international organization and we will make the application.

(P): Is it a recognized international organization?

(R): I do not know what you mean by recognized international organization, but it has been accepted by the United Nations as an international organization and allowed to address the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament last year.

(S): It is an international organization in the Pacific.

(R): Well, since you do not have any objection to the independent survey, we will contact your office about the medical group that we will be forming.

(S): I still want to know why, if the test is safe, it can't be done here in France?

(P): The facilities for the testing are not here, they are there, and many people there are earning their living by working for the testing program, and if we stop the testing there will be no more job for them.

(S): That is just because you have broken down the traditional system that had been serving the people so well, and now you have made them dependent on the colonial system that does not serve them. □



THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN

DO NOT WALK IN FRONT OF ME,
BECAUSE I WILL NOT FOLLOW,
DO NOT WALK BEHIND ME,
BECAUSE I WILL NOT LEAD,
WALK BESIDE ME, AND,
BE MY FRIEND.

DO NOT SHOUT AT ME,
BECAUSE IT WILL HURT,
DO NOT 'FIRE' ME,
BECAUSE I WILL MOURN
TALK SOFTLY,
IT CREATES MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

DO NOT POINT FINGERS,
BECAUSE I WILL FEEL GUILTY,
DO NOT WAVE YOUR FIST,
BECAUSE IT ENTAILS VIOLENCE,
OPEN YOUR ARMS IN WELCOME,
HUMANITY MEANS BROTHERHOOD TO ALL.

David L. Anere

David Anere, 26, is from Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea. He is currently doing a masters in philosophy at the University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., Canada.

PNG Minister

Visits Victoria

Mr. Rabbie Namaliu, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade for Papua New Guinea, was in Victoria at the end of November to receive an honorary Doctors of Law degree from the University of Victoria. Mr. Namaliu, 36, previously attended the University of Victoria, where he completed a Masters degree in history. He was the first Papua New Guinean to complete a Masters. The South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada was able to spend time with Mr. Namaliu and to discuss a variety of issues and possibilities for the future. Mr. Namaliu also made time available for an interview with Phil Esmonde of SPPF. Following are excerpts from this exclusive interview.

CONCERNING THE PLEBISCITES IN THE TRUST TERRITORIES

"We have serious reservations (about the results) because of the lack of time spent educating the people of the Territory as to the options available to them and the implications of these options".

"It was only after complete independence was included as an option that Papua New Guinea decided to join the monitoring team".

Papua New Guinea, along with Britain, France and Fiji, formed part of a United Nations monitoring team to observe the plebiscites which were held from February to September 1983. Mr. Namaliu expressed criticism at the lack of options provided in the plebiscites and indicated that it was only at Papua New Guinea's insistence that independence was included.

Concerning the results in Palau and the U.S. stance that Palau must deal with the contradiction between the Compact and its constitution, Mr Namaliu stated: " For any lasting relationship there has to be a resolution of these issues. The U.S. has a continuing responsibility to assist in finding solutions rather than just leaving it to the Palauans . Until the situation in Palau is resolved the whole agreement is held up." (Mr. Namaliu was referring to the fact that the Trust Territory can only be dissolved when all parties agree. However, the U.S. administration is trying to dissolve the Territory piecemeal by asking the U.S. Congress to accept votes in the Marshalls and Federated States of Micronesia, thus isolating Palau--see page 19).

Mr. Namaliu indicated that because the Territory is a "strategic" trust, there is no precedence for termination, and because it is "strategic" it comes under ultimate auspices of the U.N. Security Council rather than the General Assembly. "It is not certain what the Security Council's role will be. If it is vetoed, what then ?"

Mr. Namaliu indicated that he has received satisfactory answers from neither the U.S. (where the compact must receive ratification prior to going into effect) nor the United Nations concerning termination procedures. He indicated that Papua New Guinea is anxious to see the Trust Territory entities gain more independence.

CONCERNING INDEPENDENCE FOR NEW CALEDONIA AND POLYNESIA

Mr. Namaliu indicated that Papua New Guinea wished to see a peaceful resolution to the situation in New Caledonia. PNG supports the Independence Front's demand that only Kanaks (indigenous people) and those likely to stay after independence be able to vote in any referendum on independence. Mr. Namaliu stated that PNG also supported demands that France set a timetable for independence, which France has so far refused to do.

"We have made it known to France that we do not want another Algeria. The number of killings and murders in New Caledonia are symptomatic of what could happen on a larger scale," said Mr. Namaliu.

Mr. Namaliu said that PNG also supports the movement towards independence for French Polynesia.

"However, one of our biggest problems is that the parties in Polynesia are not united. If they got all the groups together to form a united view we would then know who to talk to."

Mr. Namaliu said PNG would look at requests for support from an independence movement in French Polynesia, but that so far his government hasn't been approached.

CONCERNING A NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC

Papua New Guinea is completely opposed to any nuclear testing in the Pacific, said Mr. Namaliu.

He said that PNG supports the concept of a nuclear free Pacific zone, which has been discussed in the region for years. He indicated that the concept is however impossible to implement without U.S. and French support, and that these two powers do not accept the concept. (The nuclear free Pacific concept would forbid nuclear testing and nuclear waste dumping. There is disagreement amongst Pacific Island nations as to whether it should also forbid the storage and transit of nuclear weapons and nuclear-powered vessels.)

Currently PNG allows American warships into her ports for re-supplying. Mr. Namaliu indicated that the U.S. refuses to state whether these ships carried nuclear weapons or were nuclear-powered. He stated that PNG is currently reconsidering this policy in light of the nuclear free Pacific concept.

Mr. Namaliu stated that in the summer of 1983, the U.S. requested landing rights in PNG for its B-52's for training purposes. He said the request was turned down.

In November of 1983, a scientist from the University of Papua New Guinea--along with scientists from Australia and New Zealand--spent one week on Mururoa Atoll, site of the French nuclear tests. The scientists brought back samples to be tested for radiation. While some nations in the South Pacific express concern that the mission would be a whitewash and lend international credibility to French testing, Mr. Namaliu is satisfied that the team had free access, and that his country's participation was in no way an act to condone French testing.

"We believed we should take advantage of the opportunity to go on this investigation. It is one thing to talk about being against French testing on principle and another to find out the results of that testing."

Mr. Namaliu expressed concerns regarding Australia's decision to open the uranium mine at Roxby Downs, which has led to demonstrations in that country. Mr. Namaliu noted that while this was an internal Australian matter, it also related to wider nuclear issues:

"We have been fairly critical of French testing in the Pacific, and France gets its uranium from Australia. We are concerned that this uranium not come back to the Pacific in another form."

CONCERNING JAPANESE MULTINATIONALS IN PNG

Mr. Namaliu indicated that recently several forestry and fishery leases held by Japanese companies were terminated or renegotiated.

"Our experience so far has shown a number of problems with past agreements relating to the question of equity, as to whether PNG is getting a fair share from these operations. There are also questions as to the extent that the terms agreed upon have been fulfilled."

Mr. Namaliu indicated that some Japanese companies have not lived up to agreements on reforestation, the providing of social services (such as health clinics and schools), the building of roads, the training of Papua New Guineans and the change to increasing local ownership. He also said that some companies were providing questionable figures for timber cuts and fish catches (upon which royalty payments to the government are based).

While 40 percent of PNG exports go to Japan--making it the country's largest export market--PNG also gets 30 percent of its imports from Japan. Mr. Namaliu did not feel his country's relationship with Japan will be soured because of recent moves by PNG against some Japanese companies.

"One thing that is quite clear is that Japan needs raw materials and PNG is resource-rich. Even if Japan got overly concerned with our terminating leases, we don't believe the Japanese will retaliate. The question here is whether the relationship is fair and just for both. They are coming to understand our position", said Mr. Namaliu.

CONCERNING MINERALS

One of the most important developments for PNG is the OK Tedi mine, currently under construction in the rugged western mountains of the country. Mr. Namaliu indicated that the mine, containing huge deposits of gold and copper, would cost \$1.16 Billion by the time it comes into operation in April, 1984. The mine, being developed by three multinationals and the government (with the latter having a 20 percent share) will generate an estimated \$150 Million in revenues per year for the government starting in 1985-86.



Along with the currently operating Panguna gold and copper mine located on Bougainville Island, the OK Tedi mine will be generating 25 percent of budgetary revenues. Given the importance of these revenues to Papua New Guinea's future development and the fluctuations in the international prices for minerals, one of Mr. Namaliu's priorities is to get PNG included in the European Economic Community mineral stabilization package under the Lome Convention.

(The Lome Convention provides duty-free access to EEC countries for select goods from former African, Caribbean and Pacific colonies of EEC member countries. PNG qualifies because it was previously governed by Britain and Germany as two separate entities.)

The Lome Convention provides a stabilization fund—currently \$500 Million—to take into account fluctuations in prices and production of commodities in the so-called ACP countries.

While PNG received \$15 Million from this fund in 1982, and \$23 Million in 1983, it is excluded from the mineral portion of the plan because the fund only provides assistance to countries whose mines are inefficient or need new equipment.

"We think this is a bit unfair", said Mr. Namaliu. "We feel that countries with efficient mines (such as PNG) should not be penalized and that they should get consideration in the stabilization plan based on price fluctuation and not only efficiency of equipment."

Mr. Namaliu indicated that EEC countries form the second largest market for PNG exports, accounting for 35 percent of total exports.

While Mr. Namaliu's trip to Canada was informal, he does plan to make a formal visit in July or August of 1984 to look at both trade potential as well as the possibilities for Canadian technical assistance for PNG. He hopes his visit will be followed a year later by a visit by the PNG Prime Minister, Mr. Michael Somare. ■



Jesuit Centre

FOR SOCIAL FAITH AND JUSTICE

947 Queen Street East

Toronto Canada M4M 1J9

Dear Friends,

This summer I visited the Marshall Islands, preparatory to developing a independent Health Survey to be undertaken in conjunction with the Marshall Islands Government and the Marshall Islands Hospital. The proposal is now under review, and you will hear more about it later, if or when the plans are finalized.

This letter is meant primarily to acquaint you with the extraordinary poor conditions at the main civilian hospital in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands. Although a new building is under construction, there is no fixed date for occupying it, and no guarantee that the hospital will be properly equipped. Meanwhile, the staff works in former military barracks moved in from Eniwetok nuclear test site. They have no hospital gowns, even for post-surgery patients, no EKG, and are lacking in most supplies one would expect to find in a hospital.

If you are able to help by sending any of the materials mentioned on the enclosed sheet, please mail them directly to:

Dr. Louie Jain
Chief of Staff
Marshall Islands Hospital
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

If you have other items which you think would be useful, please contact Dr. Jain directly and ask. I would appreciate a note saying you had sent some item or items, so that I can coordinate the assistance.

The Marshall Islands were given to the United States as a Strategic Trust Territory by the United Nations after World War II. The U.S. conducted 66 nuclear bomb tests there, near the islands of Bikini and Eniwetok, constructed the Barrier Reef Radar Station there, and is presently using one atoll as a target for MX missiles fired from California. Money appropriated by the U.S. Congress for health care of the Marshallese was turned over to the U.S. nuclear laboratory at Brookhaven, L.I., which funded its own physicians, scientists and ships to investigate the damaged health of those Marshallese directly irradiated by fall-out from the nuclear weapon testing. This health program has apparently aided the U.S. military in

estimating the effects of a nuclear bomb on a civilian population, but it has not aided the Marshallese who served as the victims. Continued U.S. "medical assistance" to the Marshallese is tied to a promise by the Marshallese not to bring suit against the U.S. government for damage to health or loss of life in the Marshalls due to the military tests.

As the people of the Marshall Islands move toward political independence from the U.S., it would be most helpful for them to know that there are compassionate persons in the world who will assist them in their medical needs without exacting a political or military payment.

The people of the Marshall Islands are known as the "gentlest" of all the Pacific Islanders. They have no word in their language for "enemy," but many words for friend! Please assist them in their urgent need, if possible.

Sincerely,

Rosalie Bertell

Rosalie Bertell, Ph.D., G.N.S.H.

Equipment needed by the Marshall Islands Hospital, Majuro, Marshall Islands, 96960

August 1983

Dr. Jain, Chief of Staff

EKG

Basic craniotomy set

Bird respirator (Mark 7)

Cystoscope

Proctosigmoidoscope

Incubator for Pathology Laboratory

Orthopedic equipment

Dextrometer or Glucometer

Diabetic Kits for patients

Hospital gowns

Bandages

Please send items directly to Dr. Jain, Chief of Staff, and notify:

Rosalie Bertell, Ph.D., G.N.S.H.

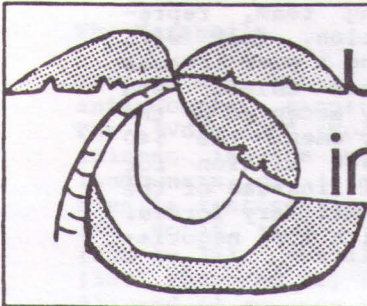
Jesuit Centre

947 Queen Street East

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4M 1J9

Thank you for your generosity. All of the above listed equipment and supplies except bandages are completely lacking at the hospital.





U.S. nuclear-free and independent pacific network UPDATE

942 MARKET ST rm.711, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94102 (415) 434-2988

Impasse in Belau Negotiations

The Compact of Free Association with the United States was not legally ratified, ruled a Belau Supreme Court Judge in August. The decision came in the middle of debate resulting from the February plebiscite, a debate that continues to rage. What follows is a brief chronology of events in the negotiations process, following the plebiscite vote and leading up to the present.

July 1 - The first written attempt to reconcile the nuclear provisions of the Compact (Section 314) with the Palau Constitution is initiated by U.S. Chief Status Negotiator Fred Zeder and by Palau Ambassador Lazarus Salii. The agreement neglects the issue of storage and transit of nuclear materials in normal operating procedures. It is also to be an executive agreement, requiring only approval of Palau's legislature and President and bypassing the public referendum process required by the Constitution of Palau.

August 1 - The Palau Senate rejects the July 1 agreement by a vote of 10 against, 7 for and 1 abstention.

August 5 - High Chief Ibedul Yutaka Gibbons and several senators bring a lawsuit against the Palau administration, charging that the February plebiscite did not approve the Compact as both President Remeliik and the United States Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations had been so quick to claim. Palau Supreme Court Judge Heffner ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, pointing out that questions A and B on the ballot (the first on the Compact in general and the second on the nuclear provisions and requiring a 75% majority to pass) were in fact inseparable. Without a 75% majority on the nuclear question the Compact had not been legally ratified.

September - While speculation continues on the future of the Compact, Palau faces a financial crisis, brought on by overexpenditures during the election process. Government employees are cut back to a 32 hour work week. The near future for the economy of the Republic of Belau looks bleak without the Compact.

October - A new, shorter version of the Compact wins approval in both Houses of the Palau Legislature. The new draft would increase U.S. funding support to \$40 million a year, in addition to providing lump sums for capital improvements and investment. Most important, however, is the apparent change in the military provisions. The draft states: "Military forces of the Government of the United States may transit through the territorial jurisdiction of Palau provided they in no way violate the Constitution of Palau." On military land use it says: "Consistent with the Constitution of Palau, the Government of the United States may secure defense sites or erect defense related facilities in Palau upon the approval of the Government of Palau." Ambassador Zeder agrees to negotiate on this new draft.

November 14-18 - A ten-member Palau negotiating team, representing both the administration and the opposition, talk with U.S. negotiators for a week in Honolulu. During a week recess they report back to the Council of Traditional Chiefs and Governors that Belau's proposals were basically accepted by the United States, with the exception of three major ones: the \$40 million annual operation and maintenance and \$80 million for capital improvement projects, and 50 year denial (instead of the U.S.-proposed perpetual denial) to third country military forces. Council members give their blessing to proceed with the negotiations, but with caution.

November 28-December 2 - Negotiations on the new Compact resume in Washington, D.C., but end in a stalemate over the financial and environmental issues involved. Following months of consistently saying that the Compact of Free Association would not go before the U.S. Congress before all districts of the territory were signed on, the U.S. Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations is planning to take a piecemeal approach; with only the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands approving it, the Compact will soon be submitted to the Senate, isolating Palau in its struggle.

December 9 - High Chief Ibedul Yutaka Gibbons of Belau is awarded the 1983 Right Livelihood Award in Stockholm at the Swedish Parliament. The award is presented "...on behalf of the people of Belau for their struggle to maintain Belau nuclear-free. The selection Board wants to support and honor both your personal involvement in this work and your position as High Chief representing the people of Belau in this struggle." A cash award of \$15,000 is given to the Ibedul to support the continuation of Belau's struggle to remain a nuclear-free nation.

Ten months after the plebiscite vote on the Compact of Free Association, the status of the Republic of Belau is still in doubt. If the U.S. Senate approves the Compact with the F.S.M. and the Marshalls, even more pressure will be on Belau to make concessions. Belau will be made to believe they are getting shortchanged while the others are on the verge of getting guaranteed funding. Urge your Senators to postpone voting on the Compact, until such time as Palau has completed its own Compact with the U.S. Send a copy of your letter to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 and send one to the national USNFIPN office. ¶

THE COMPACT

"Free" Association Approved in F.S.M. and the Marshalls

The Compact of Free Association, an agreement to end the U.S. Trusteeship of the Pacific Islands (in Micronesia), was voted on in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands this summer.

F.S.M.

The plebiscite was held June 21st in the Federated States of Micronesia. 79% approved the Compact; state totals were Truk 95%, Yap 94% and Kosrae 89%. Ponape, the government center, was the only state voting in the majority (51%) against the Compact. The main issue was over long-term denial, a question of the length of time the U.S. military land rights and the power to deny military land use to other nations will remain in effect. In return for this concession, the F.S.M. will receive U.S. financial aid in the amount of \$826 million for the 15 year life of the Compact.



The Marshalls

The voters of the Marshall Islands were the focus of a strong anti-Compact campaign prior to their September 7th plebiscite. The "Vote Jab" (No) had the support of most radiation-affected islands in the north (site of 66 U.S. atomic tests) and the landowners of islands in Kwajalein atoll (site of the U.S. missile testing range). Voting against the Compact were Rongelap (45 votes to 7), Kili, home of the resettled Bikini people, (210 to 39), Kwajalein (527 to 168) and four other atolls. Most (58%) approved it, including Uturik (101 to 40), Enewetak (100 to 33) and of course, the government center Majuro (1048 to 270).

The Compact

Although Section 411 of the Compact of Free Association states that all three governments, including Palau, must approve it beforehand, the Compact, with only the approval of the F.S.M. and the Marshalls, will soon go before the U.S. Congress. Despite recent negotiations with the U.S., approval by Palau is still in question. (See article on Belau).

The Process

It must be recalled that the Commonwealth agreement between the Mariana Islands and the U.S. was two years in the review process before the U.S. Congress and will not take effect until some kind of agreement is made with each of the other three parts of the Trust Territory. This would indicate that the approval process for this less popular Compact will take at least as long. After Congressional passage, the Compact would go to the President of the U.S. for signing and then to the United Nations. At the U.N., the Trusteeship Council will review the Compact and the Security Council must approve it before the Trusteeship can officially be ended. There is still a serious question as to whether or not either Congress or the United Nations will touch it without Palau on board. Without this final approval, the terms of the Compact, including financial provisions, will not come into effect. 7

Resources

PALAU:SELF-DETERMINATION vs U.S.MILITARY PLANS

SPPF has available for sale this 24 page booklet published by the Micronesia Support Committee in Hawaii. The booklet provides excellent background information on the current Palau situation, and is also recent (May,1983). Cost is \$ 1 plus 50¢ for postage, from SPPF.

CONFERENCE VIDEO AVAILABLE

SPPF has available for rent a videotape of the nuclear free and independent Pacific conference held in Vanuatu in July,1983. The video is 55 minutes, and is ½" VHS, and gives an excellent overview of all issues covered at the conference through interviews with delegates and excerpts of speeches. Rental fee is \$ 25,plus return cost of courier service.(We will pay courier to you). Contact SPPF if interested.

In Vanuatu, CUSO fisheries *hem i nambawan*

Nineteen eighty-three saw Vanuatu's first-ever conference on the vital subject of fisheries.

Held under the aegis of CUSO (a Canadian volunteer organisation, the initials standing for Canadian University Students Overseas), and the Vanuatu Government's Fisheries Department, the conference was an international event, with 40 delegates representing Ni-Vanuatu fishing groups, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, CUSO fisheries and administrative staff, British Development Aid, the London-based Institute of Tropical Products, and government fisheries personnel from both Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.

Primary object of the conference was to monitor progress on 10 fisheries projects that have been established throughout Vanuatu in the past two years by the Fisheries Department and CUSO in furtherance of the republic's first National Development Plan.

The fisheries section of that plan aims to do at least five things: to develop a village-based fishing industry in Vanuatu; to improve income-earning opportunities for Ni-Vanuatu; to improve the nation's nutrition; to reduce consumption of tinned fish; and to provide fresh fish for the markets in Port-Vila and Santo.

However, there was hardly any machinery available on independence in 1980 for realising those objectives. There was no formal Ni-Vanuatu fishing industry as such — the Japanese freezer works at Palekula near Santo is primarily a conduit for moving fish out of the country — and no fisheries department, save one man working as an adviser to government. Quite clearly what was needed was funding and a cadre of people with practical fisheries and administrative experience to put the government's plan into action by training Ni-Vanuatu, encouraging local in-

Canadian Dr JIM BOUTILIER reports with what seems to be fully justified pride on the role being played by some of his compatriots in the development of Vanuatu's fishing industry. He learnt all about it at a recent international conference on fisheries held in Port-Vila.



Outside the Vanuatu International Relations Centre in Port-Vila. The fisheries conference brought together people from Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Canada, Britain and United Nations.

itiative, and providing technical support.

It was at this stage, in October 1980, that Garry Bargh, a highly experienced CUSO field staff officer, arrived in Port-Vila to talk to senior expatriate and Ni-Vanuatu spokesmen about the possibility of Canadian assistance in the fisheries field.

The Canadians were, in many ways, ideally suited for the job.

As Canada is a bi-lingual nation with a well established fishing industry, CUSO was able to make available French and/or English-speaking fisheries experts. While Canadian fishing techniques are different from those used in the South Pacific, there are a good many Canadian fishermen with the right sort of qualifications for working in Vanuatu: fishermen accustomed

to working in isolated communities, to maintaining and repairing outboard motors and marine equipment, and to managing small-scale fishing operations.

Dale Blackburn from Nanaimo, British Columbia, was the first member of the CUSO fisheries team to come to Vanuatu. He and his wife Oda, who works as a nurse in Vanuatu, arrived in Port-Vila in June 1981. Blackburn spent nine months in the capital laying the groundwork for village fisheries schemes, which it was hoped would not only encourage the development of new fisheries skills and self-reliance at the grassroots level, but also provide a new source of income for the villagers.

The generation of income has become a matter of increasing importance as more and more Ni-Vanuatu move into the cash economy. Many of them raised money previously through the sale of copra, but now that local head taxes have been added to the existing burden of school fees and medical expenses, fresh ways of generating revenue have become necessary.

While Canada provided most of the money to set up the village fisheries programs (through MAF, or Mission Administered Funds, from the Canadian High Commission in Canberra) the villagers — from places like Lamen Bay, Atchin Island, Hog Harbor and Lolowai — were expected to play their part in three ways. They were expected to provide a house for the CUSO village fisheries adviser, to establish fishing associations or co-operatives to run the local programs, and to raise at least 10 per cent of the revenue needed to sustain these organisations. The European Development Agency (EDA), and the Vanuatu Development Bank, provided the balance of 50 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.

In 1982, as CUSO advisers

were being phased into their appointments throughout Vanuatu, Dale Blackburn moved to the Northern Regional Office in Santo to supervise another key element in the fisheries scheme, boat-building. A number of catamaran and 5.5-metre monohull, Hartley-design, craft have been built and fitted out with hand reels developed by the South Pacific Commission for bottom fishing at depths up to 300 metres.

Villages usually try to make two or three four-man crews available so that these fishing vessels enjoy maximum usage. Red snapper is the principal catch, and CUSO advisers, in addition

to providing practical fisheries advice, maintain records of daily catches. These records are essential if a profile of fish populations is to be developed, and fishing quotas established for various regions.

Catching fish is one thing. Preserving and marketing the catch is quite another, particularly for Ni-Vanuatu in remote areas without electricity. Some fisheries associations have acquired ice-making machines with the aid of EDA funds, while others employ coolers until they can move their catches to the two main towns. Air transport is expensive: it costs 29 vatu (US\$30c) per kilo to send fish by air from

Lanem Bay to Port-Vila.

CUSO is exploring the possibility of the Lobri Fishing Company on Atchin Island using a small inter-island refrigerated vessel to collect catches from the village fisheries in central Vanuatu and deliver them to the capital.

While CUSO has provided volunteers — the number now is over 30 — to work in health, education, forestry, handicrafts and a number of other fields, its major contribution to Vanuatu has been in the area of fisheries. The August 1983 fisheries conference, with its workshops, field trips, and lectures on the latest fisheries techniques, sug-

gests that this contribution has been a very valuable one.

The conference, conducted in Bislama, gave Ni-Vanuatu fishermen the opportunity to compare problems and accomplishments, and to realise that they were part of a national effort. The feeling that emerged from our discussion, Garry Bargh observed, was "very positive". Frequently, he added, Canadian aid programs seem to have been, if anything, under-keyed. In this case, however, the Vanuatu village fisheries program, with its emphasis on simple technology and local initiative, seems to have been clearly *nam-bawan*. — Jim Boutillier.

* JIM BOUTILLIER IS A MEMBER OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF S.P.P.F. *



PEACEMAKER IN VICTORIA

The South Pacific Peoples Foundation organized a three day visit to Victoria of the 52 foot ketch, the Pacific Peacemaker from October 29-31, 1983.

The Peacemaker, a floating symbol of peace, originally sailed from Sydney, Australia to protest the arrival of the first Trident submarine at Bangor, Washington. On its way to North America, the Peacemaker protested French nuclear testing in Polynesia, and was rammed by the French navy and subsequently arrested. Released, the Peacemaker participated in the blockade of the Trident, and was again boarded and impounded.

The Peacemaker was sold to American interests in 1982 and has since participated in a protest of the MX missile being fired from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands. Currently the Peacemaker is berthed in Seattle. The Peacemaker collective plans to continue raising the awareness of Americans on nuclear and militarization issues in the Pacific by continuing to visit various ports in the west coast. Through symbolic shares that are being sold, it is hoped that enough money can be raised for the Peacemaker to sail into the Marshall Islands in solidarity with people's efforts to get medical compensation for the results of American nuclear testing, as well as to show support for efforts to make the Pacific nuclear free. Shares in the Peacemaker are still available for individuals and groups. They are \$US 250 and are from Pacific Peacemaker Project, 309 18th Ave. E. #204, Seattle, Wa. 98112, USA.

Changing Diet

A Regional Nutrition and Health Education Conference was held in Fiji, August 16-18, 1983. The following article is by Miriam Kahn, who has a Ph.D. in Anthropology and attended the conference as a consultant for the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific.

Results from a number of medical and nutritional surveys have shown that a movement away from a traditional way of life to a westernised lifestyle is associated with the increase in many health problems.

In many of the Pacific island nations, diet has changed for the following reasons:

INCREASING DEPENDENCY ON A CASH ECONOMY

This is a cyclical problem. As Pacific countries enter the world economic market, people leave villages to go to work in towns in order to earn money. Once they move to the towns, they no longer have access to garden lands, nor the time needed to grow their own food, even if they had the land.

As a result, they become increasingly dependent on store-bought foods and cash, which in turn makes them unable to leave the town where they can earn money. This dependency on cash is the prime factor responsible for poor diets in towns.

However, it is also a major concern in the villages, where villagers are encouraged to give up subsistence land and their time in order to grow cash crops such as coffee, tea, vanilla beans and western fruits and vegetables, which they then sell.

CONVENIENCE

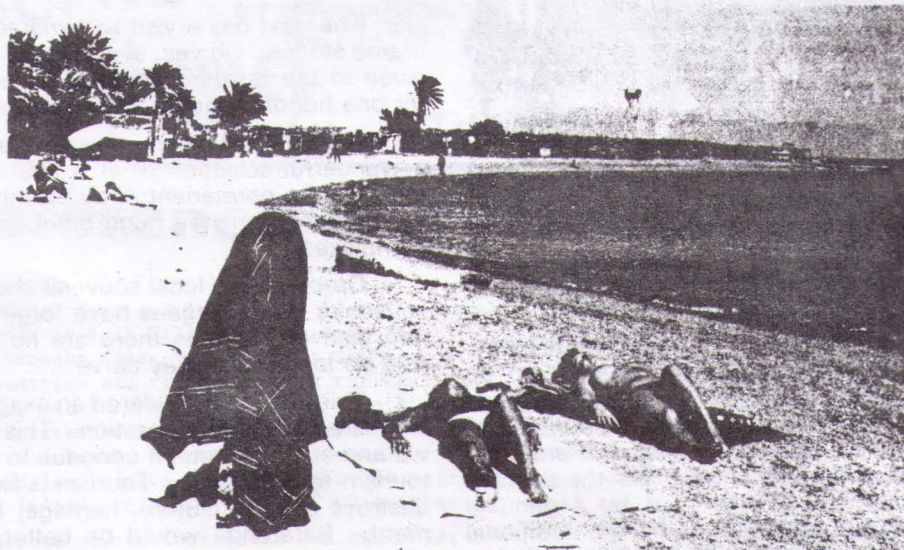
Once cash is available, even in the villages, people feel less work is involved to purchase food from the store than to walk great distances to subsistence gardens, toil in the gardens, and carry back heavy loads of food which then has to be prepared.

It is the same situation that has led to dependency on "fast foods" in the western world, particularly America. Most westerners find it easier to open a tin, defrost a frozen pre-cooked meal or buy a pizza, and do so rather than cook a meal from fresh ingredients.

Many Pacific Islanders, in their desire to emulate "developed" countries, strive towards those aspects of the western world with which they are most familiar. These western aspects include such items as tinned bully beef, mutton flaps, white bread, jam, chewing gum and such like rather than traditional pork, root crops, fruit or sugar cane.

The tragic irony, of course, is that the western foods to which they are subjected, and want to purchase and now even produce on their own, are in fact the discarded rubbish of western countries. Export policies of western countries are clearly set up for the benefit of the producers and not the Pacific Islanders. Tins of "meat" arriving in the Pacific, for example, are often marked "for export only" because westerners would refuse to eat the spiced grizzle and fat the tin contains.■

The Cook Islands is one of the smallest nations in the world. The majority of the 18,058 people are Polynesians. The rest are Europeans, most of whom are expatriate. Rarotonga (9802) has over half of the population and is the seat of Government. The Cook Islands has a total land area of 236.1 square kilometers, scattered over an ocean area of 2.2 million square km. In this article Florence Syme comments on the impact of tourism in her pacific country. Originally presented at the Tereora College Annual Speech Competition, this article is reprinted from *Pacific Tourism As Islanders See It*, published by the Institute of Pacific studies of the University of the South Pacific and the South Pacific Social Sciences Association.



Cultural Survival

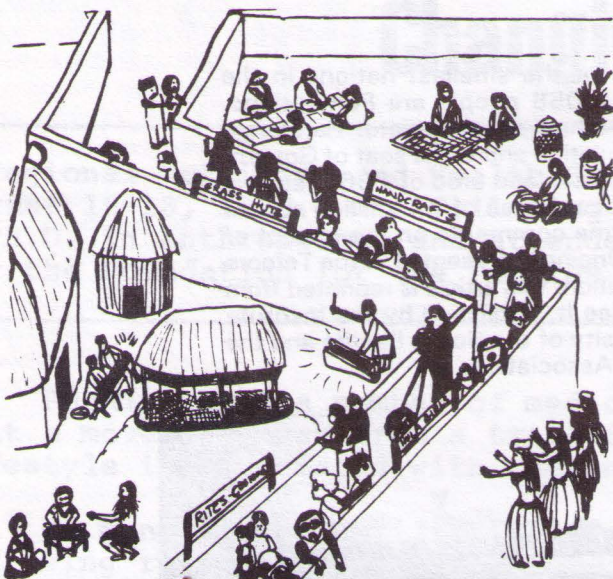
THE CONSEQUENCES OF TOURISM

In a corner of Rarotonga, a sprawling temple was erected to supplicate the gods of the latest religion. Pilgrims thronged from all over the globe to worship in this edifice dedicated to promote this rapidly expanding faith. As the pilgrims wander around the countryside - when they are not praying and meditating at the holy places such as the Banana Court and Trailways - they are chanting the ritual "ooohs" and "aaahs", and "ain't that nice and ever so friendly!" The natives and landscape are subjected to clicks and flashes of the equipment clutched reverently and bible-like in the pale hands of the adherents of this world-wide cult.

They solemnly pray and worship in various temples, drink the holy liquor, read the swaying movements of the dancing girls and practice the worshipping dance music provided by electric bands. There are so many holy spots erected to cater for the influx of pilgrims who sacrifice their money seeking spiritual fulfilment at these recently constructed shrines.

Then the natives, after observing the pilgrims' ways, begin to try to adapt themselves, and here begins one of the downfalls of the faith. For the religion is tourism, the pilgrims, tourists. Many small countries depend on tourism to raise their financial status, and give it top priority in their development plans. Two major long term effects of tourism are: (1) the loss of culture, and, (2) the destruction of the natural environment.

Take Hawaii, for example, where Hawaiians no longer speak Hawaiian and masses of concrete buildings have been built to accommodate the tourists. The Hawaiians are now trying desperately to revive their culture (and particularly their language) and they lament the loss of their land. Already this is taking effect in Rarotonga. We, the natives, speak a mixture of English and Rarotongan; traditional dancing and singing are no longer practiced and enjoyed the way they used to be. Our culture is being prostituted by tourism; our customs and traditions are being shed like a beautiful outer skin for a new and



gaudy plastic coat. Let us cast our minds into the future - say twenty years - and see how much of our island and our culture will have been converted to cater for this religion.

A Boeing 747 lands - one of many flights a day. As the pilgrims arrive, cries of exclamation go up because there are no trees - just a mass of buildings which someone has attempted to gaily colour. Why? Well, you see, all the vegetation died on Raratonga because of the heavily polluted air. As the pilgrims leave the terminal they are greeted by a genuine Raratonga tour guide carefully attired in the traditional costume - Levi jeans and T-shirt - who places plastic

flower garlands around each pilgrim's neck. One woman asks "Have you no flowers?" "Flowers," exclaims the tour guide and turns to the driver, "Oh - flowers - yes, well you see we have no trees and most of the land is covered with buildings so we cannot grow flowers any more."

They are then driven on the six lane motorway and arrive at the very chic temple, complete with plastic trees. A bit of entertainment perhaps, so along to the Banana Court where in order to enter, the gruelling ordeal of wading through empty beer cans etc., awaits them. Dancing girls imported from Pukapuka jiggle to electric ukeleles and drums. They have been imported because the Raratongan girls no longer remember how to dance.

The next day a visit to a *marae*. Funny looking *marae* stones. Oh yes, synthetic. The originals were given to the Suzuki Company in Japan in exchange for one hundred motor bikes.

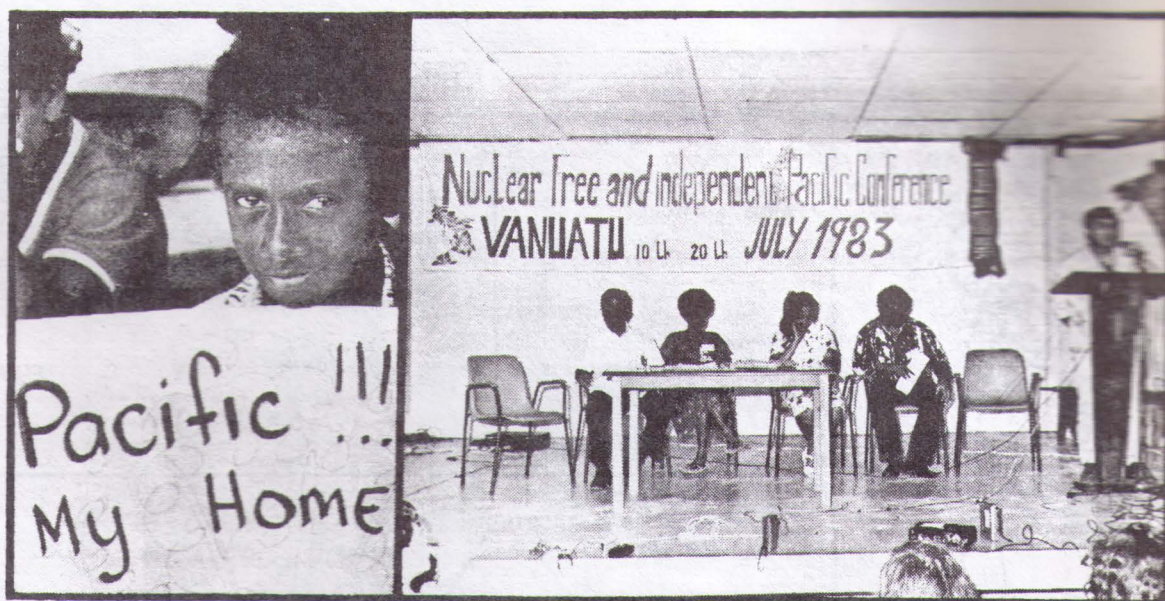
A dip in the lagoon - an exotic brown colour with a wonderful selection of litter floating about, not to mention the permanent array on the beaches due to the effluent from the huge hotel, motel and factory complexes.

Drop into the local souvenir shops - all imported souvenirs. Raratongans have forgotten how to plait and weave - besides there are no pandanus trees. And no longer can they carve.

This may be considered an exaggeration, but if it is, it is a minute exaggeration. This will take place if we and our government continue to encourage mass tourism to Raratonga. Tourism is like the plague - it destroys people, culture, heritage, and the environment. Raratonga would be better off without the pilgrims and temples of this religion.

* FROM: CONTOURS, VOL 1 #3, 1983 (PUT OUT BY THE ECUMENICAL COALITION ON THIRD WORLD TOURISM) *





Conference Report Now Available

The Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Conference, held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from July 10-20, 1983, brought together more than 140 people from 33 countries and territories in the Pacific, Pacific Rim, and Europe. Participants in the NFIPC/83 represented grass roots independence, anti-nuclear, church, peace, environmental, womens', and land rights organizations, as well as Pacific Island Legislatures and Parliaments.

The purpose of the Conference was two-fold: 1) to provide a forum for exchange of information on independence, nuclear, military and economic issues; and 2) to develop strategies and action campaigns for the next two years in support of independence and liberation movements and in support of creating a nuclear free zone in the Pacific region. To accomplish this, the NFIPC/83 was split into two consecutive sessions. July 10-13 was given for presentations and workshops on three major themes: 1) Political Independence in the Pacific; 2) Militarization and Nuclearization of the Pacific; and 3) Economic Dependency and Development. The second half of the Conference focused on action planning sessions and strategy workshops.

The NFIPC/83 Report includes papers presented at the Vanuatu Conference, including the Conference Opening Address by the Honorable Semy Regenvanu, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, and keynote speeches by Barak Sope, Secretary General of the Vanuaaku Pati and Member of Parliament, Vanuatu; Owen Wilkes, Pacific military expert formerly on staff of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and now of Aotearoa (NZ); Sr. Rosalie Bertell, Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice, Canada; Dr. Suliana Siwatibau, National Ministry of Energy, Fiji; and William Sutherland, University of the South Pacific, Fiji.

Also included in the Report are papers on Maori land rights, colonial and military domination of Hawaii, nuclear weapons tests in the Marshalls and Tahiti, independence movements in New Caledonia and East Timor, Diego Garcia and the Indian Ocean, the Guam movement for indigenous rights, Pacific-European movement ties, and nuclear waste dumping.

The Report includes the full text of resolutions adopted by the Conference; summaries of Action Proposals passed by participants; photos of Conference sessions and workshops, the national demonstration against French colonialism and nuclear testing held in Port Vila July 13, and the closing taro planting ceremony; a list of the Conference Participants and Guests; background about the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific movement; a finance report; and international supporting organizations.

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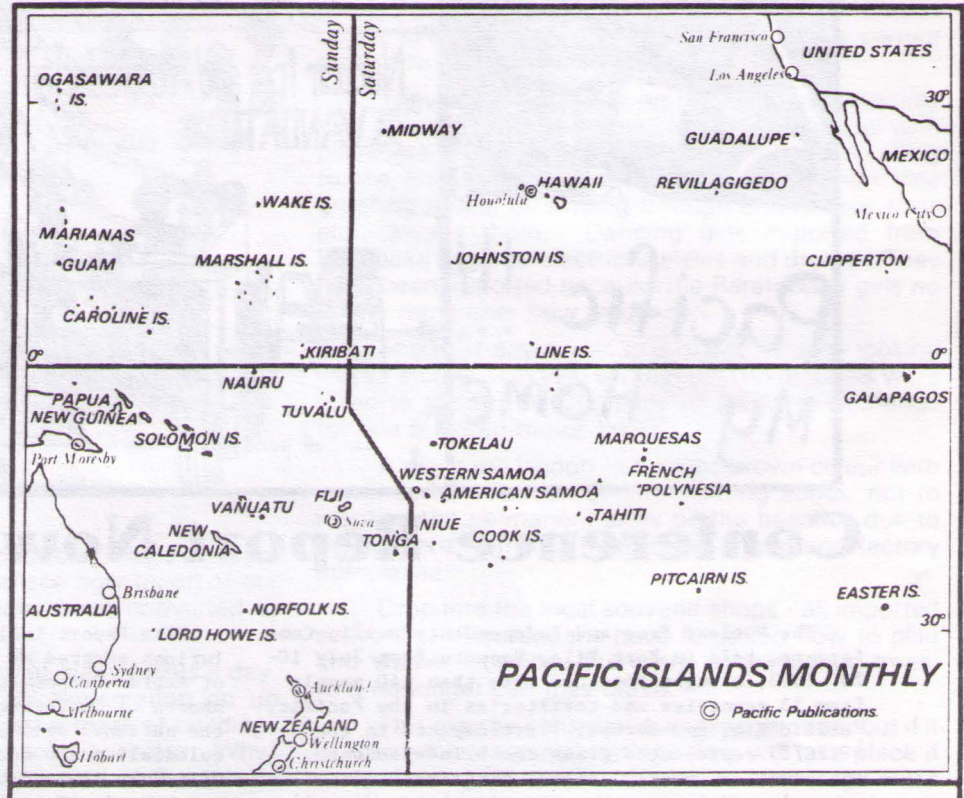
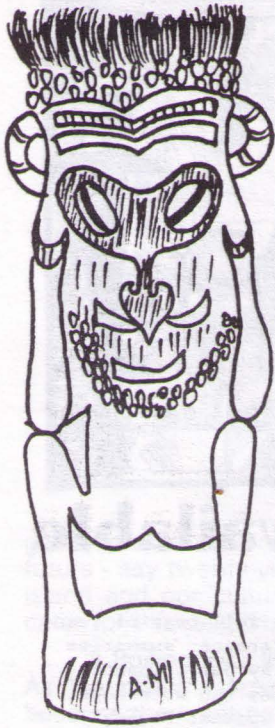
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