

Tok Blong SPPF

APRIL 1985 #11



Photo by DAVID STANLEY, SOUTH PACIFIC HANDBOOK

The St. Hubert, pictured above, is a patio bar and restaurant situated right on the main square, the Place des Cocotiers, of Noumea, New Caledonia. It is a very popular spot to have a beer or a "citron presse" in the hot afternoon of Noumea and tends to be frequented by Caldoches and ethnic minorities like Vietnamese and Indonesians as opposed to being a gathering place for Kanaks. Notice the graffiti, "Colons Assassins", on the wall. Around Noumea there is a lot of political graffiti on buildings and roads. Originally it was mostly Kanak written but over the last two years as the political scene has heated up more and more right-wing graffiti has appeared.

TOK BLONG SPPF is pidgin english as used in many parts of the Pacific. It might literally be translated as "this talk belongs to SPPF" or, SPPF Newsletter. **TOK BLONG SPPF** is published four times per year by the South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada, 407-620 View St., Victoria, B.C., Canada V8W 1J6, and is available to donors of SPPF (minimum \$10 yr.). SPPF exists to raise critical issues in the South Pacific to a Canadian audience through a variety of public education methods, and to assist in getting relevant Canadian financial, technical and other assistance into the South Pacific to assist islanders in their self-development. **TOK BLONG SPPF** is edited by Phil Esmonde.

SPPF

UPDATE

First, apologies. This newsletter is a month late by our schedule.

The heaviest time of year for any Canadian NGO (non-government organization) is February and March. This is the end of one year and the beginning of the next. It means final reports and new project submissions. It also means books being audited.

At time of writing SPPF awaits word on further government funding (via CIDA) to continue to carry out its development education program in Canada. Our objectives continue to be to increase Canadians' awareness of the development issues, problems and opportunities of the South Pacific region; to continue to develop links between Canada and the South Pacific for information exchange and program development; and to assist in mobilizing and channelling Canadian financial resources (and other resources) to viable development projects in the South Pacific.

While continuing our ongoing efforts through public talks, providing resources to individuals and other groups, assembling and sending out this newsletter, and corresponding with people and groups in Canada and the South Pacific, we will also be working on developing an overall introductory slide show on development in the South Pacific, as we know of no such overview. We will also be co-ordinating the national tour of two Pacific Islanders to Canada this October (see other story).

Some of SPPF's work over the last year included giving 23 public talks; organizing the Canadian visit of a representative of Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana of Hawaii; and organizing the second national meeting of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific support network.

Our audio-visual materials were used a total of 28 times, and press coverage included national shows such as "As it happens", Canada AM, and CKO all news radio. SPPF also acted as a resource for a four-part CBC IDEAS series on the Pacific.

SPPF currently has 84 member/donors and is very grateful to them for their support - support which is vital to our continued existence. This past year we also received important support from the United Church of Canada and CUSO, for which we are also grateful.

Finally, we must acknowledge the important financial support of the Public Participation Program of CIDA, as well as their overall support for our programming.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on any element of our program.

BEDOR AND WILKES TO TOUR CANADA

SPPF and Project Ploughshares are cooperating on bringing two active Pacific Islanders to tour Canada during United Nations Disarmament Week in October.

Roman Bedor of Belau and Owen Wilkes of New Zealand will be talking to Canadians about militarization in the Pacific and what it means for Pacific Islanders.

Bedor is a practicing lawyer in Belau and has been a leading defender of Belau's nuclear free constitution. A member of the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre Steering Committee, Bedor has toured Europe, the United States, and Japan to talk about Pacific issues.

Wilkes is a leading researcher of militarism. He has worked for the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo, Norway, and the world's top research institute in Stockholm, SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute). Currently Wilkes is a lead researcher for the peace movement in New Zealand.

The Canadian tour is still in its formative stage. If you have any suggestions, please write SPPF.

NFIP NETWORK MEETS

The second annual meeting of the Canadian support network for nuclear free and independent Pacific issues met in Vancouver February 28 and March 1, 1985.

The meeting was attended by 23 people representing some 20 regional, local and national organizations and had representation for the first time from eastern Canada (Fredericton, New Brunswick).

The meeting reviewed activities of the ad-hoc network, was updated on issues in the Pacific, and set priorities for network work in Canada. Specifically, the network decided to look at strategies and actions under the broad areas of Militarization of the Pacific, Self Determination in the Pacific; and Environmental Issues.

It was affirmed by the meeting that the network remain a loose one, with members entering into actions as they can. SPPF remains as somewhat of a national clearinghouse for the network, and a formal connecting point to U.S. and International networks.

The final decision of the meeting was to confirm the wish to meet again in 1986 in Vancouver.

For those wishing more information, contact SPPF.

Sanguma to Vancouver in July



Sanguma, an eight piece musical group from Papua New Guinea, will be appearing at the Vancouver Folk Festival, July 19, 20 and 21, as part of a North American visit.

As well as Vancouver, the group will be at the New Orleans Jazz Festival and playing in New York, Washington, D.C. and Denver.

While SPPF's attempts to set up some national stops for Sanguma in Canada did not come to full fruition, we are glad to have been of assistance in getting the group to the Vancouver Festival, where approximately 10, 000 people will be exposed to their music, and the profile of Papua New Guinea in Canada will have been raised.

We are hoping to have a brochure on Papua New Guinea available for those attending the festival so that they will understand Papua New Guinea more.

NEW ZEALAND SUPPORTED

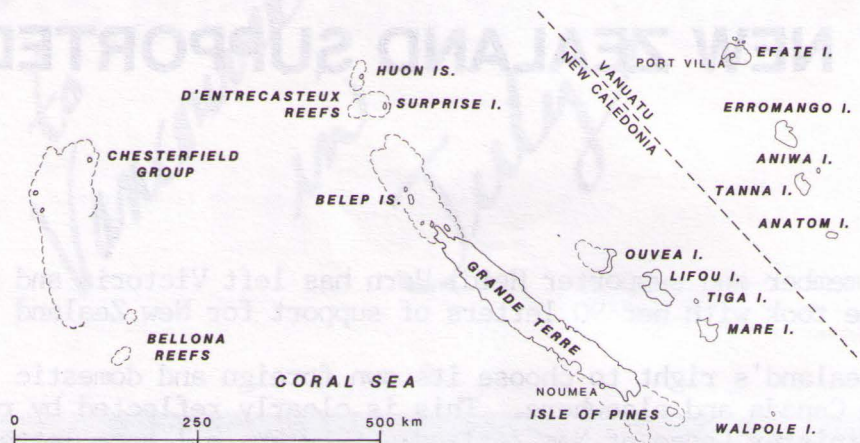
SPPF member and supporter Heidi Horn has left Victoria and moved to New Zealand. She took with her 90 letters of support for New Zealand from Victorians.

New Zealand's right to choose its own foreign and domestic policy is strongly supported in Canada and elsewhere. This is clearly reflected by responses received from Prime Minister Lange of New Zealand; they are all form letters of thanks with even Lange's signature printed on the form letter - so much support that it is impossible to hand sign them!

PETITIONS PRESENTED TO JAPAN

Over 60,000 signatures were presented to the Japanese government on March 1 by a delegation from the Northern Marianna Islands. The signatures, representing people in 70 countries and including 3,444 from Canada, were contained on petitions opposing Japan's plan to use the Pacific as a site for its low-level nuclear wastes.

While Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone indicated at the beginning of this year that Japan would not proceed without consensus of the four Pacific countries he visited (PNG, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand), concern continues in that Mr. Nakasone has not indicated unequivocally that Japan will not dump. Concern is that Japan has only postponed a possible dumping, and is awaiting a vote in September on a Nauru/Kiribati amendment to the London Dumping Convention which would permanently outlaw ocean dumping. If the amendment does not go through, it is thought that Japan will proceed (followed shortly by the U.S.).



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NEW CALEDONIA

SLIDE SHOW

WELL RECEIVED

The SPPF-produced slide show providing background to the current situation in New Caledonia is filling a real need for audio-visual resources on the Kanak struggle to become first class citizens in their own home.

Copies of the slide show are now with Ingrid Kircher of the U.S. Pacific Issues network, the Pacific Conference of Churches and a solidarity group in West Germany.

Ingrid Kircher interprets for Yann Uregei, Foreign Minister of the Kanak provisional government, when he is in New York. She is using the SPPF slide show to brief other national organizations, and plans to have a showing at the United Nations. Currently Kircher is in Belau where she is showing the slides to a meeting of the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre Steering Committee. From there she will proceed to New Caledonia and hopes to show the slides to the provisional government.

SPPF had showings to CUSO in Ottawa, as well as to a meeting of the Victoria International Development Education Association. Both were well-received and did much to educate people on the situation in New Caledonia. A further showing took place at the University of Victoria.

If you are interested in rental or purchase of the slide show, please contact SPPF.

NEW ZEALAND AND NEW CALEDONIA: ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

What follows are two perceptions of events in New Caledonia and New Zealand which, unfortunately, have not been described in the popular media in North America. In the first essay, Rev. David Williams of the Asia Offices of the National Council of the Churches of Christ/USA draws on his years of experience in working with churches in the South Pacific to describe the situation in New Caledonia. In the second, Helen Clark, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control Select Committees in New Zealand, speaks of the efforts of many in New Zealand to become nuclear-free. Both essays are edited versions of letters the authors have sent to the press for publication.

NEW CALEDONIA: New Caledonia, the island colony of France northeast of Australia, has been much in the news lately because of outbreaks of violence as the indigenous Melanesian people, the "Kanak", intensify their struggle for independence. Dozens of recent deaths through violence are reported. The French Government has proposed a "Treaty of Association" whereby New Caledonia would be given internal autonomy, but France would handle external relations and would take responsibility for all matters pertaining to "security". French citizens would remain such. We have been reading about the boycott of elections, the Kanak Provisional Government, the barricades, about the tragic deaths on both sides. Unfortunately, however, reporting is seriously inadequate. New Caledonia should be of special interest for the churches because of historic mission ties there and the fact that the Eglise Evangelique of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands, the largest Protestant denomination, has officially taken a position in favour of Kanak Independence. But the current reporting tends to make the Kanaks appear naive, selfish, and unprepared for independence with lines like, "Approximately 37% of the population (based on the estimate that approximately 85% of the Melanesians favour the Kanak independence plan) demands that they be the only ones to vote on the question of independence."

The Kanaks have in the past demonstrated great patience and have repeatedly shown a desire to settle the question of their self-determination by peaceful means. Kanak delegations were sent to France as early as 20 years ago to plead their case, at a time when they were still a majority in their own land. Sitting for long hours without response in the ante-rooms of disinterested politicians was a humiliating experience for them. But still they were patient. Sadly, their patience has worked against them. A deliberate French policy to encourage inflow of European French citizens, other Pacific islanders as workers and Asians has reduced them to a minority in their own land, about 42% of the total population of 140,000.

[Editor's note: Retired French military receive additions to their basic pension if they live in France's territories. These allowances are also based on the distance from Paris, therefore those who live in New Caledonia receive the largest addition to the basic amount, New Caledonia being the greatest distance away from Paris.]

The position of the Independence Front (the FLNKS) is not that only Melan-
esians shall vote. For good reason, the position of the FLNKS has been that only
those citizens having at least one parent born in New Caledonia shall vote on the
question of independence. This clearly allows some non-Melanesians to vote, but
it mainly restricts it to those who came in the "boom years" of the 1960s, many of
them victims of history, as the Kanaks have been victims of colonialism. It should
readily be recognized that French military personnel and civil servants may vote
after six months. Beyond the voting question, the Kanak independence plan assures
fair treatment for people of other origins in a united, multi-racial community. The
Kanak are simply insisting that the starting point of the new nation is a Melanesian
identity and not a European one. Non-Melanesians are invited to stay and shape the
life of the islands.

The socialist nature of the FLNKS plan is often highlighted in the press, and
its leaders made to appear as radical leftists. It must be remembered that the
traditional culture of the Kanaks is highly communal in nature, therefore a socialist
orientation is not surprising. The Kanak independence leadership consists generally
of responsible persons and groups, including prominent ex-seminarians and other
Christian leadership.

The recent violent turn of events, long predicted, has prompted a visit to
New Caledonia by French President Mitterand and negotiating teams. Quite approp-
riately, fresh initiatives are being made by the Kanaks at the U.N., with the support
of other Pacific island nations, to place New Caledonia's case for self-determin-
ation under U.N. oversight. While some may question the U.N. in other spheres, its
record in decolonization is a striking example of achievement. This effort at the
U.N. is constructive and deserves wide-spread support.

NEW ZEALAND: On July 14, 1984 New Zealand elected its 4th Labour Government. This
government is committed to the implementation of a strong and comprehensive nuclear-
free program. Legislation will be passed to ban the presence of nuclear weapons on
New Zealand soil and in its harbours and air space. Public support for that policy
has been massive, with opinion polls reporting that between 2/3rds and 3/4ths of all
New Zealanders favouring the ban. This movement is a valid and indigenous response
to the menace of nuclear weaponry that has been formulated over a lengthy period.
New Zealand is a South Pacific nation whose people are increasingly aware of the
damage already done to their fellow Pacific citizens by nuclear testing. Micronesians
in the U.S. Trust Territories, Aborigines in South Australia and Polynesians in
French Polynesia have all suffered from the creation of nuclear weapons and tests.
These experiences and the dramatic arms race have prompted New Zealanders to mandate
their leaders to press for disarmament initiatives more vigorously than before. But
clearly this new emphasis is seen by some in the U.S. as against their interests.
It is interesting to note that between 1975 and 1984 (when no ban was in place),
visits by U.S. vessels averaged only once in 18 months. Their strategic significance
in New Zealand is quite dubious.

The new Labour Government will maintain and strengthen New Zealand's friendly
relations with the U.S. New Zealand will continue as a partner in the ANZUS pact,
but its participation will be on strictly non-nuclear terms. Neither the letter or
the spirit of ANZUS obliges New Zealand to embrace the alleged protection of the
U.S. nuclear umbrella. New Zealanders recognize that nuclear weapons are now the
greatest threat to their security. In addition to the efforts of New Zealanders for
the ban are similar moves by other small nations attached to the superpowers, like
Denmark and Romania, to distance themselves from nuclear weaponry. It would indeed
be curious if New Zealand was permitted lesser freedom within a loose partnership
like ANZUS than Romania is in the Warsaw Pact. In the end, the issue for New Zea-
land is one of national sovereignty. Are we as a sovereign state entitled to deter-
mine our disarmament policies in accordance with our interests as a small concerned
nation - or are we not?

From: Update - Task Force on Militarization in Asia and the Pacific
(New York, New York). February 1985.



PHOTO BY DAVID STANLEY, SOUTH PACIFIC HANDBOOK

Pictured above is the Pere Lenquette low-cost housing development in the city of Noumea, New Caledonia. Tucked away at the extreme end of the Vallee de Tir, one of the neighbourhoods which make-up the city, this development is occupied for the most part by Kanaks and also by peoples from the other French Pacific territories of Wallis and Futuna and French Polynesia. Its four storied buildings arranged in geometric formation are a stark contrast to any village anywhere in the Pacific including New Caledonia. Villages are the home of a clan, a group of people who are related by blood and through marriage. Each family has its own section of land and in that section are included the all important food gardens and livestock (generally chickens and pigs) raising areas, as well as many small buildings and shelters for the purposes of eating, sleeping, cooking and food preparation, laundry, showering, toileting and socializing all surrounded by grass, flowering shade trees, papaya trees, coconut palms, citrus trees and so on. That is, a very pleasant and spacious, as well as, gracious living situation. From that we can look again at the Pere Lenquette development and imagine the drastic changes in life style facing Kanak people moving to and living in Noumea.

The family goes from being totally self-sufficient in food production into the cash economy and at the low end of it salary-wise. Cash is, of course, needed but purchases which for us are an assumption are for a Kanak family a major obstacle. For example, fuel. The village family gathers dead wood and coconut husks for its cooking fuel. That is all free. But the family in the city first of all must have a stove, not a necessity nor even a common thing in the village. Secondly, for that stove, propane must be purchased and it is very expensive; in Victoria, a refill for a 30 lb. cylinder costs \$11.50, in Noumea it would cost about \$20. Electricity becomes a greater expense in the city because of the smallness and ensuing darkness of the flats. In the village, people spend a large part of their leisure and work time out-of-doors. In the Pere Lenquette development, outside is basically a barren place not conducive to socializing. So the whole social focus of the family changes from a feeling of expansiveness and visiting freely to and fro out-of-doors to a feeling of oppressiveness in a very small one or two bedroom apartment surrounded by 500 others exactly the same.

SLCM's Campaign Takes Off

The Pacific Campaign against Sea-Launched Cruise Missiles makes its public debut on March 1, at an NFIP Day news conference hosted by PCRC. The campaign seeks to block the deployment of these deadly and destabilizing new weapons by thrusting them into public awareness and, if necessary, denying port access to any ship that carries them.

Originally approved almost two years ago by the NFIP conference in Vanuatu, the campaign did not begin to take shape until late last year. Initially called the 'Tomahawk Campaign', it adopted a new name after the Soviet Union announced that it is matching the U.S. by deploying the SS-N-21, a sea-based cruise missile comparable to the Tomahawk.

Despite the delay in getting started, the campaign is the first effort to oppose these weapons systems on a regional basis. It is not alone, however. The campaign has formed an exciting alliance with the North Atlantic Network, a new organization with many parallels to the NFIP movement.

Sharing our concerns about the Tomahawk and the SS-N-21, the Network has agreed to stage joint actions with us on the weekend of June 15 and 16 this year.

U.S. groups are also beginning to mobilize on this issue, particularly in New York, San Francisco and other cities where the Navy wants to homeport renovated battleships equipped with Tomahawks. A meeting is scheduled for mid-April to coordinate the work of these groups. The U.S. NFIP network - now called the U.S. Pacific Issues Network - will participate in this meeting, as will representatives from the Pacific and North Atlantic.

Meanwhile, national and alliance politics are increasing the campaign's chances of success. Aotearoa's firm and courageous stand against nuclear ships

has had profound effects on other nations, especially Australia. It has forced the Hawke government to distance itself from the U.S. on nuclear issues and will make visits from Tomahawk-capable warships very unpopular.

The actions on June 15 and 16 will be tightly linked to these developments. In the Pacific, most events will occur at U.S. naval bases and ports of call, drawing attention to harbors where Tomahawk-equipped vessels are known to visit. The actions will serve dual purposes, supporting national priorities for self-determination and demilitarization as well as contributing to the international pressure against the missile's deployment.

In several respects, the campaign is an experiment. It may be the first Pacific campaign to be developed cooperatively from the very start. It is attempting to plan strategy on a new level, using conditions in one nation to create leverage in another. It is the only campaign explicitly to challenge Soviet actions in the Pacific. And it has taken some unusual steps toward forging a united front with other regions.

A coordinating council is now being established to plan strategy and direct the campaign, with representation from the participating countries. Rim nations predominate in the campaign at this point, probably because the Tomahawk-equipped ships will come mostly to their ports. But the issue affects the Pacific as a whole, and any group interested in participating is urged to contact the NFIP network in its nation or to write the Pacific Campaign Against SLCMs, at 2085 Makiki Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

- By Nelson Foster

FROM: PACIFIC BULLETIN

ACCESSIBLE FIJI

David Stanley, Canadian author of the South Pacific Handbook, has just authored a new South Pacific book: Finding Fiji. The book is due off the press any minute and Stanley says it is packed with practical tips and "everything you need to know in a portable volume". Going by his other books, it is likely also a volume sensitive to the culture of Fiji and one which tries to impart that sensitivity to its readers. For Canadian readers, first copies can be ordered from Firefly Books, 3520 Pharmacy Avenue, Unit 1-C, Scarborough, Ontario, M1W 2T8. Cost is \$6.95.



TUNA INDUSTRY STUDY UNDERWAY

The Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) at the East-West Center in Honolulu is conducting a two-year research project on "The Role of Multinational Corporations in the Pacific Tuna Industry." The project is being undertaken at the direction of the Standing Committee of the Pacific Islands Conference. The Committee consists of heads of government from American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Hawaii, Kiribati, New Caledonia, and Papua New Guinea. It was established at the 1980 Pacific Islands Conference to ensure follow-up on the development problems discussed at the Conference.

PIDP's research on multinational corporations (MNCs) in the tuna industry is the first in a series of MNC studies. The tuna industry was selected because of its importance to the economies of Pacific Island countries and because governments in the region attach considerable significance to its present and future development. Moreover, all countries in the region are affected by activities in the industry, either by the operations of distant-water fishing nations' fleets or by the operations of domestic fishing and processing industries.

Industry and government leaders in Pacific Island countries have expressed a desire to increase their effective participation in the industry at a number of international and regional meetings. Information on the dynamics of the tuna industry and on different options for development, however, is limited. As a result, governments in the Pacific region have found it difficult to formulate effective policies for MNC involvement in their fisheries development programs. Similarly, the lack of in-depth comparative analyses of different types of investment and joint venture arrangements have put governments in a weak negotiating position with foreign investors and international tuna companies.

The research will address the current lack of information about tuna operations in the western and central Pacific. An improved understanding of the complex issues and arrangements that affect tuna operations - both in the region and the world - will enable Pacific Island countries to make informed judgements on their development options and to increase their returns from participation in the industry.

The purpose of the project is (1) to analyze the current and future role of MNCs in the tuna industry in the western and central Pacific region, and (2) to evaluate their potential contributions to development from the Pacific Island countries' points of view. The project will also assess the relative importance of the region's tuna fishery in the international tuna industry. On the basis of country experiences and trends in the region's tuna industry, potential development options for Pacific Island countries will be outlined.

For more information write : Dr. David J. Douman, Project Leader, Pacific Islands Development program, East-West Center, 1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA 96848.

TRADITIONAL USES OF PLANTS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

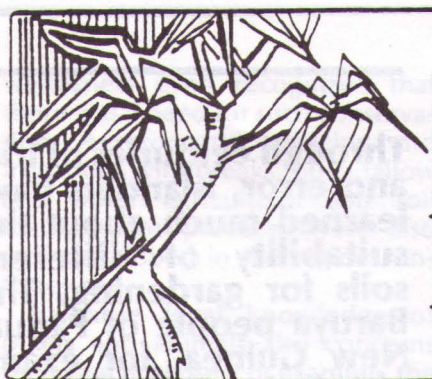
The development of natural resources in Papua New Guinea has brought rapid and extensive industrial expansion. With this comes the inevitable influx of new ideas and values which all too often replace traditional values. One example is the growing dependence on imported medicines in established hospitals and health centres. While such health aid is essential, these centres are not always accessible nor are they always maintained at the standards necessary for the administration of drugs. In addition, very powerful drugs are often administered for the wrong reason, or relied on too heavily.

The importance of traditional medicines, which the people of P.N.G. have relied on exclusively in the past, must not be forgotten and the importance of preserving this cultural heritage must be encouraged. Today, pharmaceutical companies are still exploring potential sources of plant-derived drugs. The rain forests of countries like Papua New Guinea are, undoubtedly, the source of many yet undiscovered medicinal plants. Now, the continual destruction of these forests through logging and shifting cultivation practises in so many tropical countries, may spell the depletion of this resource. Thus, the preservation of tropical rain forests is essential if we are to maintain the present genetic diversity which provides this largely untapped resource. In light of this, as well as the changing values in P.N.G., the documentation of this knowledge is essential.

At the same time, the continued use of traditional medicines should be encouraged. Wau Ecology Institute is initiating a program to promote greater self reliance in the community. This involves the use of ecologically sound methods of subsistence agriculture and methods of appropriate technology. Encompassed in the project is the encouragement of the use of traditional medicines and the documentation of this important pool of knowledge which has been passed down through generation after generation and which must not be lost in the wake of development and industrialization.

By: Ellen Woodley, CUSO Volunteer PNG
From: WIM, CUSO-PNG Newsletter. February 1985.





Pandanus Periodical

NUMBER SEVEN

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The Value Today of Islanders' Traditional Knowledge of Their Natural Resources

By R.E. Johannes

Development of natural resources, no matter how you care to define it, depends for its success upon first finding out as much as possible about the environment in which it is to occur. To develop farming one must first determine local soil types, microclimates and appropriate farming techniques. To develop a fishery one must first determine where the fish are, their seasonal movements and what methods are most appropriate for their capture. These are rather obvious statements with which no reasonable person would argue. It is a sad fact, however, that those responsible for development in the Pacific Islands, (and elsewhere throughout the Developing World) have largely ignored an exceptionally rich source of such knowledge sitting right under their noses.

Most of what we know about the nature and management of natural resources in developed countries can be found in libraries. But in developing countries much of it resides only in the heads of older men and women in the villages. They are the "librarians" of encyclopedic stores of practical knowledge about local plants, animals and the physical environment. Until

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recently this knowledge has been all but ignored by those responsible for resource development.

Imagine a stranger with a map of an area who confidently assumes he is better equipped to explore it and describe it than a local hunter who may not even know what a map is, but knows every tree, every water hole, the meaning of every sound, smell and broken twig in the area. It is this kind of attitude that has dominated much of the research and development of natural resources in the past.

Scientists who study trees, crops, insects, birds, fish, soils, etc., are not accustomed to doing research in their own countries by interviewing other people. This is because, in their countries, **they** are the experts. They gain new knowledge by painstakingly studying the fish, birds and trees directly. When such scientists travel to areas of the world which are poorly known scientifically, their customary research habits tend to cause them to overlook local people as a source of knowledge. Scientists, like everyone else, are creatures of habit, and bad habits take time to correct.





Fortunately this particular bad habit is beginning to fade. Increasing numbers of researchers are beginning to realize what they have missed by not gathering local knowledge concerning natural resources before giving advice on resource development. Increasing numbers of articles are appearing in which such knowledge is described.

Take the knowledge possessed by island fishermen for example. More species of fish can be found in the water around some small tropical Pacific islands, than in the waters off the entire Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic coasts of Canada. Marine biologists possess only a small fraction of the information necessary to develop and manage such complex fisheries. Some of the "missing" knowledge is not really missing; it is in the heads of island fishermen.

A few years ago it was discovered, for example, that the expert fishermen of Palau possessed detailed information on the spawning habits of the fishes in their waters. They were able to pinpoint the precise locations and times at which various species spawn. Many species of reef fishes spawn around the time of new or full moon. Palauan fishermen were able to provide details on such lunar spawning cycles for more than twice as many species of fishes, as had been identified by scientists as lunar spawners throughout the entire world to that time. Such infor-

mation is of central importance to sound fisheries management. Similar information on this and many other important marine phenomena exists among fishermen throughout the tropical Pacific.

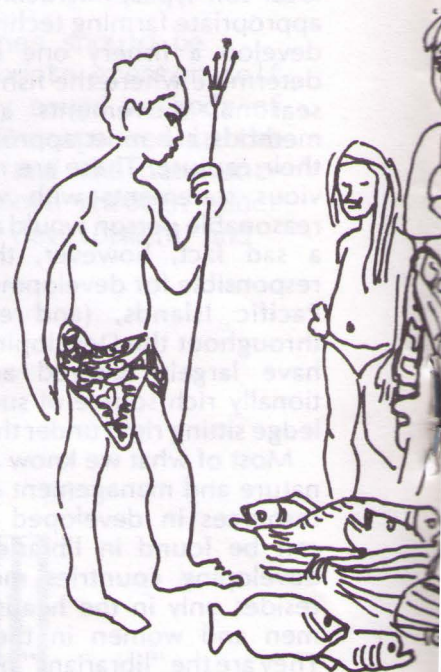
Intercropping, the growing of several crops together, is a widespread custom in the Pacific islands. Until the 1970's it had always been dismissed by western researchers as simply demonstrating ignorance of better, more modern farming methods. But studies have since shown that, in the tropics, intercropping can produce more food than western style single crop farming.

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Traditional knowledge also extends to conservation and management of natural resources. Pacific islanders invented almost all the basic fisheries conservation techniques in use throughout the world today, centuries before



westerners even recognized that there was a need for such conservation. Agroforestry, terracing and irrigation, windbreaks, bush fallow and other agricultural and soil management practices were also well developed in the region centuries ago.

Valuable local knowledge of plants and animals also concerns their practical use. For example, the prestigious international scientific journal, *Science*, recently published a paper on the anti-tumor properties of a type of tropical sea worm. What caused scientists to investigate such an improbable source of medicine? To use the words of the investigators, it was on the suggestion of "an elderly woman of Hawaiian race who had experienced many of the native Hawaiian medical practices," and who told them that indigenous "cancer patients had shown clinical improvement after drinking an infusion of cooked sea worm tentacles daily for several weeks."

It would be a mistake, however, to romanticize traditional knowledge. Some traditional medicines have little value other than that of reassuring the patient. They are of no more value than some of the pills and potions dispensed in modern drug and health food stores. Local information on fishing or farming is not always accurate, either. This is

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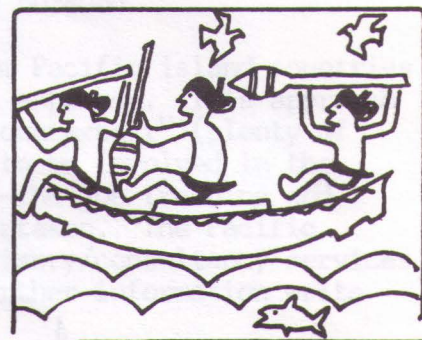
hardly surprising. The history of western science is full of mistakes too. What we need is a blending of the best information that western scientists and local experts can provide.

But despite growing awareness among scientists of the value of local knowledge there are two problems that must be solved before this knowledge gains its proper place in the modern development of island resources. The first problem concerns education. The nature and value of local knowledge is generally not taught in westernized island school curricula. Its omission implies that it is not worth learning. Thus many islanders are growing up unaware of the knowledge possessed by their grandparents and its value today. Among those islanders who know least about their traditional knowledge base are the educated elite whose school years are often spent far from their villages. Ironically it is these very people who will be responsible for determining the patterns of natural resource use in their countries in the future.

The second problem concerns the gathering and recording of this knowledge. As the older people who possess it die, it is being lost. This is because young islanders today are not terribly interested nor impressed with this knowledge, so it is not being passed on to the next generation as it was in the past. There is therefore an urgent need to collect and record this knowledge as rapidly as possible. Unfortunately there are not nearly enough scientists in a position to do so.

One way to tackle both problems at the same time is this: the awarding of annual prizes in island schools for the best original reports on any aspect of traditional knowledge or management of natural resources. Students in district centers could do these assignments either individually or in groups during holiday

Among those islanders who know least about their traditional knowledge bases are the educated elite whose school years are often spent far from their villages. Ironically it is these very people who will be responsible for determining the patterns of natural resource use in their countries in the future.



Continued on next page



Continued

The history of western science is full of mistakes too. What we need is a blending of the best information that western scientists and local experts can provide.

breaks when they are back in their villages and could question their elders.

Islanders are rediscovering ethnic pride and the wisdom that resides in tradition. By means of such prizes this awareness could be channeled inexpensively into hundreds of projects which would help locate and preserve what would become, over a period of years, priceless national libraries of local environmental knowledge and invaluable sources of knowledge for island planners and resource developers. It would also help reverse the growing isolation of older people and help them regain some of the respect they have lost as their grandchildren turned west for their knowledge.



R.E. Johannes is currently with CSIRO, Marine Laboratories, Division of Fisheries Research, Australia. He has done extensive research on the fisheries in the Pacific areas, and also has published numerous papers widely both in Europe and the USA. He can be contacted at CSIRO, Marine Laboratories, Division of Fisheries Research, P.O. Box 20, North Beach, W.A. 6020 Australia.

Of Related Interest:

"The Tongan Fishermen" by S. Halapua. Published in 1982 by the Institute of Pacific Studies in association with the Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific. Available for 3 Fijian dollars (about US \$3.50) plus postage from the Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.



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AID FOR WHOM?

Ten years ago one of the major aid donors to the Pacific made an announcement that they were setting up a consultancy fund to help Pacific island countries and to help their consultancy industry to develop as their consultants lacked the necessary overseas expertise which is required in order to win contracts in the international consultancy scene. Because the money which is spent on these consultancies is written off against the aid allocation for the Pacific region it was recently suggested that available job opportunities for consultants be made known to Pacific island consultants. The reply? "You're joking, our Professional Consultants' Association would be up in arms if they heard about it - that would be taking away job opportunities from them!!" Even though donor countries might want to create jobs for their own people, the countries receiving the assistance require employment even more.

ADVANTAGES OF USING LOCAL CONSULTANTS

- a) They remain in the region and can be called on to answer any query that might arise as a result of their report (many consultants can't be contacted after they have submitted their reports; some even refuse to answer queries on the grounds they have fulfilled the terms of reference of their original contracts).
- b) Local consultants don't have to waste a lot of people's time by asking basic questions to learn. Many consultants on short-term assignments, unfamiliar with the Pacific, presently waste a lot of time doing this.
- c) It might not cost as much as hiring overseas consultants because travel costs, etc., can be minimized.
- d) More likely that the necessary follow-up work can be pursued.

If a particular skill/expertise is not available from Pacific island countries there are many advantages in pursuing a team or counterpart approach. This approach involves the aid donor paying for the participation of a "counterpart" (plenty of unemployed graduates around) or associate (USP could help) to be involved in the consultancy to provide the local input, receive valuable on-the-job training and assist in any follow up activities that may need to be undertaken. The Pacific Regional Advisory Services (PRAS) was set up to provide advisory/consultancy services to island governments utilizing regional personnel. For further information write to SPEC.

From: Trade and Industry Scene, South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation
(Suva, Fiji). March 1985.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE OR DOMINATION?

Aid to the South Pacific is one of the highest in the world. However its impact is causing a great deal of concern.

The South Pacific is a huge area of some 30 million square kilometres, with 550,000 square kilometres of land, most of which is in Papua New Guinea. There are over 20 separate political entities of which about half are self-governing or independent.

The smallness and scattered nature of the island states and their limited resources give them specific development needs and difficult obstacles to overcome in achieving a high standard of living for their peoples. It is also not possible to generalize about the region as a whole because of the very diverse nature of the different islands and cultures.

A report called "More Effective Aid" produced for the South Pacific Forum in 1976, made the point that, "Sources of aid are likely to widen significantly over the coming years. ...These changes are likely to lead to increased aid becoming available, and to increasing politicization of aid relationships and increased dependence."

This prediction was very accurate. Japan, the USA and the EEC, as well as specialised UN agencies and the Asian Development Bank, have all become important donors. Traditional donors such as Australia and New Zealand have increased their aid. France and the USA have maintained high levels of budgetary support for their territories to maintain their Pacific influence for strategic and economic purposes.

The former Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, told Parliament that his government was countering any Soviet influence in the South Pacific by maintaining high aid commitments and other forms of help to the islands. It is also widely understood that increased funding by the USA in the Pacific has been the result of discussions within ANZUS. New Zealand's involvement in the region is also historical but equally an expression of its commitment to ANZUS.

The South Pacific nations have very close contact, politically, economically and socially with Pacific Rim states. This provides the possibility for valuable development assistance on the one hand or continued outside interference and domination on the other.

Foreign policy objectives always play an important part in aid strategies and the South Pacific is no exception. The history of US involvement in Micronesia since the second world war is an obvious example. The model of development being pursued in the region is a Western model and the development assistance given is furthering this model and more tightly integrating Pacific nations into the international trading and financial structures. This trend, one could argue, is the cause of their problems and likely to make them more entrenched.

The impact of aid in the Pacific is being increasingly questioned. It is clear that most, if not all Pacific economies are becoming more dependent on outside assistance. Aid per capita for the region is the highest in the world. (Although on a country by country basis it ranges from \$ 100 per capita to \$ 1000) Samoan economist Dr. Te'o Fairbairn talks about the development dilemma in the following way,

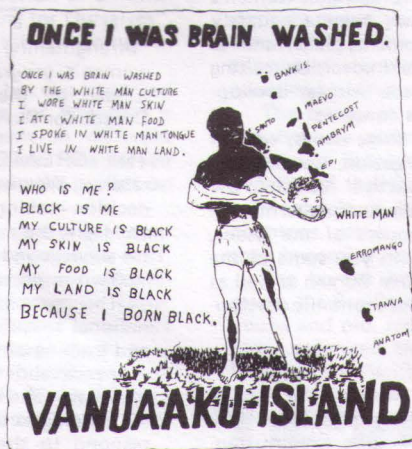
" A bewildering variety of international organizations pumps an increasing amount of aid money into the South Pacific. The development pace in the region quickens as governments and administrations start ambitious plans to meet ever-rising expectations... Development is creating issues and problems the full implications of which are neither explored nor appreciated. More development means more reliance on overseas charity, technicians and experts, imported goods, commercial capital and management. How does this relate to the oft-stated goal of self-reliance and economic independence?"

(Islands Business, Nov. 1982)

Answers to this challenge are rarely heard either in the Pacific states themselves or among the donor nations or agencies.

by Kevin Clarke

Excerpted from ICDA NEWS (Belgium). December 1984.



The graphic above was provided us by David Stanley of Moon Publications. It is a redrawing of a poster used by the Vanuaaku Pati during the independence struggle in then New Hebrides (now Vanuatu). Stanley saw the old poster on the wall of the Pati office in Port Vila last year.



TONGAN WOMAN from an outer island selling oranges in the main street of the capital, Nuku'alofa.

THE PACIFIC : NEED FOR LONG-TERM LINKS

Women's issues are development issues which should not be addressed by special women's programmes in isolation to any formal development planning.

Yet, in the Pacific up to the present day, activities of governments' women's offices, national women's organisations and church women's groups have always been planned and implemented outside the formal development plans.

Closer examination of the situation reveals that women's special concerns and interests have not been adequately planned for in government's development plans, and as there is a lack of women's participation in decision-making bodies, no effective changes can be made in these development plans to cater for special women's concerns.

Without questioning the causes of these issues, women take it upon themselves, as an obligation, to organise activities that would give quick and practical results to the situation, but no consideration is given to long-term programmes which should address the causes of the issues. In this article I would like to share with you some of the activities of the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau as well as examine the issue of women in social and economic development in the Pacific.

AT THE REQUEST of Pacific women, the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau was established in May 1982 within the framework of the South Pacific Commission, based in Noumea.

The main objectives as formulated by the 1981 Seminar of South Pacific Women were: To co-ordinate SPC and other regional programmes involving women; to act as an information resource-link for women; and to co-ordinate technical and funding resources available to women in the Pacific region.

The bureau has two staff members, one responsible for English-speaking countries and the other responsible for the French-speaking territories.

In the French-speaking countries, numerous activities have been carried out for women and their communities. In New Caledonia alone, five training courses have taken place within the last eight months, covering economic self-sufficiency, health and nutrition, education, appropriate technology and community development. Two training courses are planned for French Polynesia before the end of the year, and Wallis and Futuna are trying to plan their activities so that they can utilise the services of the bureau more effectively.

In the English-speaking countries the activities of the bureau were made possible by a special project called,

This article was contributed by Hilda Lini, who works with the Pacific Women's Research Bureau of the South Pacific Commission. Based at the SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, she has the position of Women's Programmes Development Officer.

"Strengthening the planning and implementation of national women's programmes in the Pacific". This project was funded by the United Nations Voluntary Fund of the Decade for Women.

THE GREATEST achievement has been in awareness-raising. Women, for the first time, have come to know the decision-making and planning processes in their localities, and learn the names of departments and persons responsible for services and resources available to women.

Two important areas which have had visible impacts are:

The establishment or strengthening of policies and national machineries supportive of the interest of women, and training of women for participation in the identification of needs and resources, planning and implementation of national — and community — level activities.

Training activities in every instance were formulated to respond to the needs of the client group. However, the common needs identified during the training activities were women's need to understand the political and administrative processes of their countries, and an understanding of the procedures of access to available services and resources.

Apart from responding to specific countries requests for assistance, the bureau has also been engaged in the implementation of projects formulated as priority areas by the Tahiti women's seminar.

In 1983, the curriculum of the SPC Community Education Training Centre was reviewed as directed by the Tahiti women's seminar. A new curriculum was drawn up and is now being implemented. Previously trainees went through the same course. The new curriculum now provides a core course for all trainees on community development which includes: community organisation, mobilisation and approach, organising and conducting meetings, communications techniques, needs assessments, programme planning, report writing and implementing techniques and skills. Trainees can then choose to specialise in one of the following streams: nutrition and health, agriculture and related fields, home economics, women, youth and social development.



SCREEN-PRINTING tuition at a Lautoka (Fiji) multicraft centre.

EMPLOYMENT HOPE IN MULTICRAFT

A multicraft programme begun in Fiji eight years ago with New Zealand development assistance is providing hundreds of unemployed young women with access to vocational training.

So far, 28 multicraft centres have been set up on all main islands. Enrolment preference is given to students who have completed their fourth-form year and who are over 15 years of age.

Female students are accepted for any of the four main areas of tuition — agriculture and fisheries; light engineering; building crafts; and homecraft and industries.

The Fiji Ministry of Education, which runs the centres, says the programme aims to encourage students to set up projects at home with the skills they acquire.

The agricultural education adviser with the programmes, Pita Tagicakiverata, is keen to see as many young women as possible enrol for the agriculture and fisheries courses.

"Vegetable production, livestock raising and the cultivation of plants essential for handicrafts are proving to be areas of interest to female school-leavers."

Some students, he says, are able to begin earning an income while still at the centre by establishing an industry at home concurrently.

Since 1977, grants under the New Zealand development assistance programme for building and equipping multicraft centres have totalled \$1 million.

As requested by the Tahiti seminar, a nutritionist was recruited in 1983 and has been engaged in activities to improve nutrition and health in the region — formulation of national nutrition policies and assistance with the formulation of the nutrition curriculum about to be introduced at the University of the South Pacific in Suva.

Another priority area identified by the Tahiti seminar was the women's health status survey.

In 1983, a successful pilot project was conducted in Niue. Preparation is now under way for a women's health status survey to be carried out in Marshall Islands. In the area of health education, the bureau collaborates with the SPC Health Education Officer who co-ordinates health programmes available to women.

The bureau has also collaborated with the University of the South Pacific in financing the distribution of a health handbook for Pacific women called, "Caring for Ourselves". This book acts as information resource kit for women in the region.

One other area that has been neglected but was identified by the Tahiti seminar as a priority area for attention is the data collection women's involvement in different aspects of development for planning purposes. The bureau will soon engage a consultant to co-ordinate the project on socio-economic statistics on women.

The bureau is also in the process of recruiting a communications specialist who would be able to assist the staff, mainly in the area of compilation, organisation and dissemination of information to women in the region. Other activities include the co-ordination of a Pacific handicraft exhibition and women's handicraft workshop at the Festival of Pacific Arts in Noumea in December and the organisation of two regional women's meetings in March 1985 in preparation for the United Nations End of Decade Conference in Nairobi in July 1985.

THE DEVELOPMENT process that has taken place and continues in the region today has affected traditional social and economic structures, and created numerous issues.

These issues are of great concern to all sectors of the community but in most cases people do not understand or question the causes. Women especially face these issues with difficulties and feel more responsible because they care so much about the social and economic well-being of their families.

Women through the Pacific have set up social programmes and activities, especially in areas that they are more skilful in such as sewing, gardening, food preparation, weaving and small-scale income generating activities. And they continue to seek solutions to these existing problems. These programmes however do not address all the issues nor the main causes of these problems.

The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau has identified the following areas where changes need to take place in order that development issues are adequately planned for and properly addressed.

First, women need to know and understand the decision-making and planning processes in their communities.

Second, they need to receive necessary training in skills and knowledge for participation in the development process.

Third, planners need to be sensitised to the issues and methods involved in integration of women into the formal development sector.

For women's concerns and interests to be properly catered for, women need to participate in the planning processes to ensure the integration of these special interests into formal development plans.

Planning offices should strengthen the ties between the decision-making and the people, and women, and should aim to bridge the gaps which exist between planners and those at the grassroots level, so that community needs are adequately addressed.

The bureau in addressing these issues hopes that women can become active participants in deciding development goals, and can work to achieve these goals and share the benefits of their labour. It is also hoped their participation will contribute effectively to the development of their countries rather than remain passive, with the risk of their becoming needy recipients of development.

The bureau believes that in order for progress to be made, the Pacific community needs to work for partnership young and old, men and women. The quicker we act, the more organised the community will be to challenge the future of the Pacific.



LIBRARIAN Lily Fletcher (right) and assistant Lekei Fletcher sorting books in the new National Parliament of Papua New Guinea at Port Moresby. New Zealand contributed books and equipment to the Parliamentary library under the bilateral aid programme.

Men first

Pacific Islanders bartered shells for sophistication. Now they queue up nostalgically to see old pots and pans. Ben Burt looks at the state of Pacific art.

Unlike the art of the West, Pacific Island art is not a special activity set aside from everything else – it is part of life. It embraces tools, weapons, utensils, images used in religious ceremonies, and displays for entertainment and prestige.

Class divisions which systematically exclude certain people from the creative process have never been a part of the structure of most Pacific islands. Only in the kingdoms of Polynesia, Hawaii and Tahiti were there chiefs and kings powerful enough to employ artists, craftsmen and performers to produce art for an elite. Elsewhere, in New Guinea, Melanesia, Micronesia and much of Polynesia, artists and craftworkers, singers and dancers were, and still are, farmers and fishermen. So are the traditional landowners, politicians and feastmakers, the lawyers, historians and priests, and, at intervals, the government officials and business employees. They live in tribal societies with everyone learning, according to their sex, most of the skills necessary for the material

and spiritual welfare of the community.

The most important form of inequality in Pacific societies is that between men and women, and men dominate the arena of artistic creativity. In New Guinea the most striking teams of costumed and painted dancers in the Highlands are male and the carved and painted sacred houses of the Sepik region are built, decorated and used by men. Men made and used the finest costume ornaments of the Solomon Islands and the carved and polished weapons of Fiji and Polynesia. Women may decorate everyday objects like baskets, mats and pottery and dress themselves beautifully on special occasions, or even have their own costumed dances and songs. But in parts of the Solomon Islands only men could dance. In lowland New Guinea women are the audience for the parades and dances of often fearsome spirits which their menfolk impersonate through masks. Although women can look at the decorated sacred houses and canoes they cannot enter.

This is all part of the Pacific practice of keeping women and their 'unclean' sexual functions separate from the spirits of dead ancestors and other beings whose powers their menfolk invoke to ensure the health and prosperity of their communities.

As in the West, artistic creativity was woven into the power structure of society. Many beautiful objects were difficult and time-consuming to make. The personal ornaments and beads used in the Solomon Islands have to be painstakingly ground and polished from scarce shells. Only rich and influential men could buy or borrow enough to make a full set for themselves and their families to wear at festivals.

In the Solomons shell beads were also used as currency; as in other parts of Melanesia valuable ornaments were among the fine objects given away at festivals, marriages and other occasions to show off the prosperity of the givers. Besides, fine carvings there were also great architectural achievements in wood and thatch, huge festivals with pigs to feed the guests and trained dancers to impress them; all required much work and organisation and reflected the strength and success of the community and its leaders.

But community-based Pacific arts are now bending under the pressures of colonialism. The objects and books that decorate Western museums are all symbols of the destruction of a great part of traditional Pacific culture. Not that the Islanders themselves were always unwilling participants in the process. They wanted the manufactured goods and labour-saving devices of the industrial world; the transport, the metal tools, the medicine.

Sometimes they even wanted the political control which has stopped the constant bloody feuding, and the new religions which welcomed women and maybe contained the secrets of the white men's power. But the price has been the rejection of traditional arts, both because manufactured goods are often so much cheaper and easier to use, and because of the prejudices of the dominant culture which regarded anything traditional as 'savage', 'heathen' or 'primitive'.

Slowly, then, the artistic traditions of the Pacific have been eroded and the international culture of the West has begun to replace them. Traditional ornaments have been replaced by fashionable clothes, folk singing by pop music on radios and cassettes, crafted utensils by shiny pots and pans, and religious art by...what? The material enrichment has brought artistic impoverishment. It is only now that attempts are being made to revive the traditional arts, partly to provide income from tourism but also as a way of reasserting the cultural identity of Pacific islanders and reuniting them with a past culture which is only now beginning to be appreciated. Ironically it is often Western institutions like Arts Festivals and museums which are leading these efforts to reclaim the cultural heritage of the Pacific Islands. ■

Ben Burt works at the Museum of Mankind, London

Motherhood and art in Papua New Guinea.



NEW INTERNATIONALIST, FEBRUARY 1985

COMPACT CALLED INTO QUESTION

Serious questions surround the Compact of Free Association in terms of U.S. responsibilities, in terms of future use of the region for military purposes, in terms of whether people in Micronesia really had any choice but to vote in favour of continued association (that is to say they were "dealt a stacked deck").

Following is an analysis of the key problems with the Compact, and a suggested proposal for changes which are realistic and attainable. Briefly they call for the U.S. to follow through on its pledge given to the world in 1947 when it took responsibility for Micronesia. When this has been done, then the people should vote on association or independence.

The focus for the Compact is currently on the U.S. Congress, where hearings have been on-going. Readers interested in giving their opinion might write to Representative John Sieberling, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. You could also write to the U.N. Trusteeship Committee, United Nations, N.Y. 10017

FIVE MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WITH MICRONESIA

1. The Compact of Free Association does not create sovereign states in Micronesia, as stipulated by the U.S. Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations. These entities cannot be considered as exercising self-determination when the United States claims full authority for their defense and security (Section 311 of Compact). Nor can they terminate the Compact unilaterally, since the most important parts of the Compact (the grant of military rights to the United States) cannot be terminated for 15 years in the case of the Federated States and for a minimum of 30 years in the case of the Marshalls. The truth of the matter is that the Compact is designed primarily to give the United States continued military access to Micronesia rather than to allow the territories to exercise self-determination, at a time that pressures for genuine sovereignty are increasing in the Pacific.

2. The Compact of Free Association with the U.S. can be seen as a product of a historical process whereby the U.S. deliberately foreclosed the independence option for Micronesia, in violation of Article Six of the Trusteeship Agreement..

o The U.S. has not promoted the "economic advancement or self-sufficiency of the inhabitants" but instead deliberately fostered a condition of economic dependency. Infrastructure is not yet up to pre-war levels, and copra production is way below pre-war levels. Most money has gone to creating a government bureaucracy tied to U.S. financial appropriations. As former US Ambassador to the UN Donald McHenry noted: "there seems to be general agreement that the United States has failed dismally to develop Micronesia economically."

o The United States has also failed to "protect the health of the inhabitants," as provided for in Article Six. Leprosy exists in epidemic proportions in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), with Dr. John Trautman of the National Hansen's Disease Center claiming that leprosy on the island of Kapingamarangi "would probably be considered the most significant epidemic percentage-wise in the history of the world." Cholera and tuberculosis also exist in epidemic proportions in the FSM.

o Finally, the U.S. has failed to lead the inhabitants "toward self-government and independence." The U.S., in fact, deliberately sabotaged this objective. In 1963, National Security Action Memorandum 145 set forth as U.S. policy "the movement of Micronesia into a permanent relationship with the United States within our political framework." To achieve its four separate entities in the late seventies as part of a "divide and conquer" strategy to foreclose the independence option.

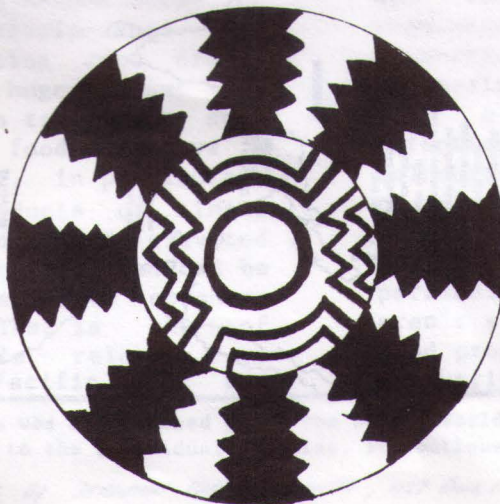
3. The Compact's military and security provisions contribute to a destabilizing arms race between the superpowers. The main purpose of the Compact with the Marshalls is to give the United States continued access to and control of Kwajalein, the world's largest atoll. Kwajalein is currently a key site for the development of the controversial Strategic Defense Initiative (the so-called "Star Wars Program") of President Reagan. Says Giff Johnson, author of Collision Course at Kwajalein, Kwajalein is one of the few sites from which the military "can launch interceptor rockets against incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles."

4. Section 177, which sets the guidelines for the compensation for the radiation and property effects of the nuclear bomb testing in the 1940's and 1950's, is blatantly unfair. It allows compensation of only \$187 million to the victims of the tests and would prevent future litigation against the U.S. (This is the notorious "espousal provision" which allows the Marshall Islands Government to "espouse" future claims of victims against the U.S.) Currently, the islanders are suing the U.S. to the tune of \$5 billion. No independent health survey has yet been carried out to determine the actual extent of radiation damage to the health of the Marshallese has been carried out. Many experts claim that the peak period for the eruption of cancers and other radiation-related diseases will come in the 1990's and early 21st centuries.

5. The September 1983 plebiscite in the Marshalls was of dubious validity because voters lacked adequate information on the true extent of radiation damage. The failure of the U.S. to allow an independent radiological survey to be held and funded had a bearing on a central issue in the plebiscite -- the actual extent of radiation damage and the equity of the Compact provisions on radiation compensation.

CHANGES SOUGHT IN THE COMPACT

1. We would like the peoples of Micronesia to be given the option of genuine self-determination, as provided for in Article Six of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement. We propose a transition period during which the political, economic, and social conditions for genuine self-determination will be generated - e.g. developing industries like fishing and coconut-processing and export, and diversifying trade and aid ties. At the end of this period, a UN-supervised plebiscite should be held on several options, including the independence alternative with the same or approximate financial aid terms as provided for in the Compact of Free Association. This would prevent voters from voting under the threat of economic blackmail by the U.S.--i.e. Choose independence and there goes your prime industry, the U.S. funded bureaucracy.
2. In the Marshalls, the plebiscite should be held not only under conditions where the independence option is given a fair hearing but also in circumstances where adequate information on the extent of health damage in the Marshall Islands caused by radiation is available.
3. Before such a plebiscite, therefore, Congress should make available the necessary funds to conduct a truly independent and objective health and radiological survey of the Marshall Islands with a medical and scientific team to be chosen by the affected Marshallese people themselves.
4. We urge that the espousal clause be dropped. We also urge that the financial compensation provisions of Section 177 be thoroughly revised and made more equitable. These should also be rewritten so as to take into consideration the results of the proposed independent radiological and epidemiological survey.
5. We also ask Congress to appropriate the necessary funds to eliminate leprosy, cholera, tuberculosis and other 19th century diseases in the Federated States of Micronesia. A representative of the National Hansen's Disease Center estimates that an effective prevention and rehabilitation program would need funding to the tune of \$1 million.
6. We urge the United States to begin the process of phasing out the SDI and missile-testing program at Kwajalein in the interest of demilitarizing the Pacific. In the interim, we recommend that the Kwajalein Atoll Corporation, which represents most of the Kwajalein landowners, be the direct beneficiary and recipient of the payments agreed upon in the Military Use and Operating Rights of the Compact. This would ensure that the people of Kwajalein receive fair and adequate compensation for the use of their land.



Military Forces, Weapons, and Installations in the Pacific

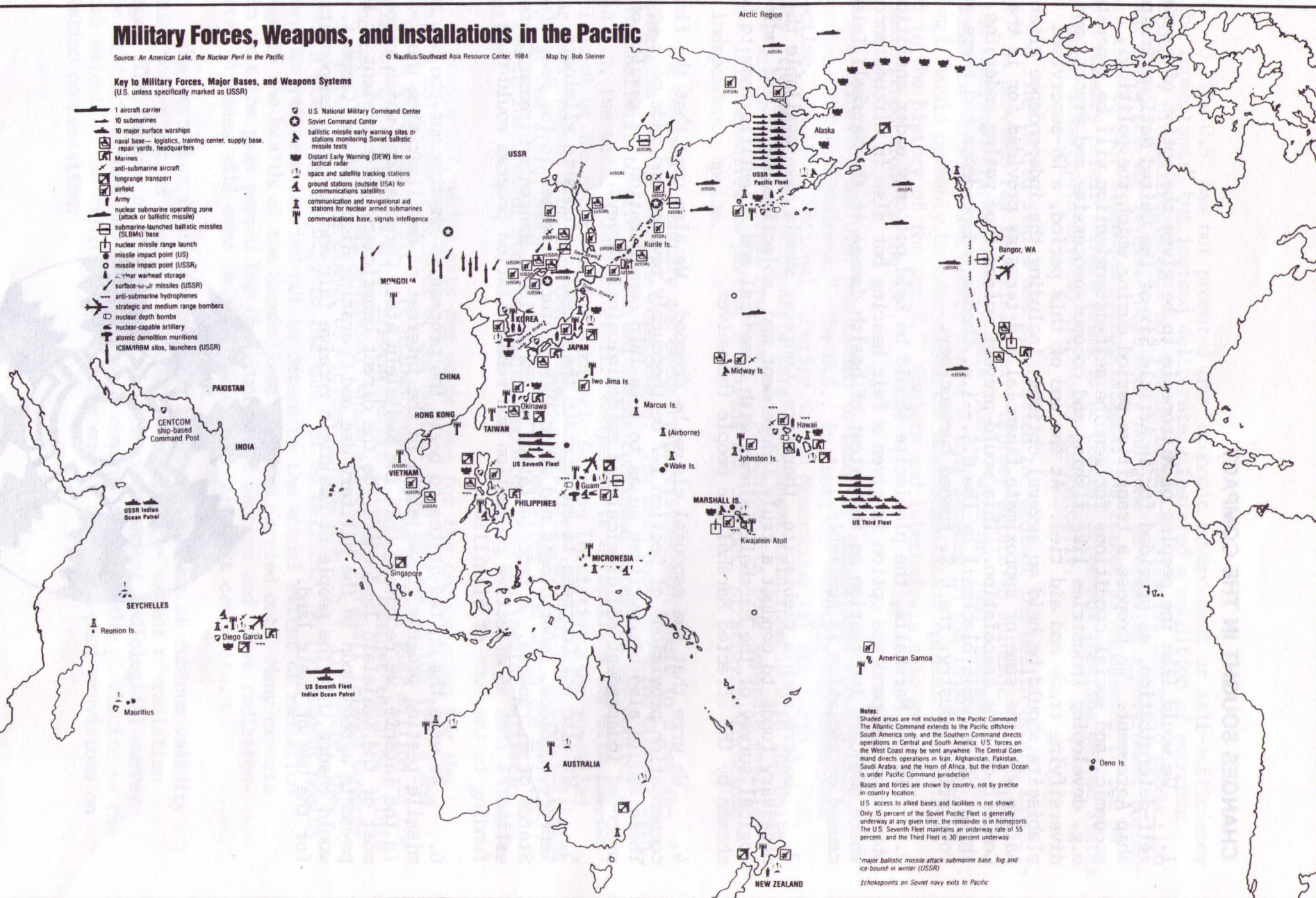
Source: *An American Lake, the Nuclear Peril in the Pacific*

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Map by Bob Steiner

Key to Military Forces, Major Bases, and Weapons Systems (U.S. unless specifically marked as USSR)

- 1 aircraft carrier
- 10 submarines
- 10 major surface warships
- naval base—logistics, training center, supply base, repair yards, headquarters
- Marines
- anti-submarine aircraft
- longrange transport
- airfield
- Army
- nuclear submarine operating zone (attack or ballistic missile)
- submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) base
- nuclear missile range launch
- missile impact point (US)
- missile impact point (USSR)
- clear warhead storage
- surface-to-air missiles (USSR)
- anti-submarine hydrophones
- strategic and medium range bombers
- nuclear depth bombs
- nuclear-capable artillery
- atomic demolition munitions
- ICBM/IRBM silos, launchers (USSR)
- U.S. National Military Command Center
- Soviet Command Center
- ballistic missile early warning sites or stations monitoring Soviet ballistic missile tests
- Distant Early Warning (DEW) line or tactical radar
- space and satellite tracking stations
- ground stations (outside USA) for communications satellites
- communication and navigational aid stations for nuclear armed submarines
- communications base, signals intelligence



Notes:
Shaded areas are not included in the Pacific Command. The Atlantic Command extends to the Pacific offshore South America only, and the Southern Command directs operations in Central and South America. U.S. forces on the West Coast may be sent anywhere. The Central Command directs operations in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the Horn of Africa, but the Indian Ocean is under Pacific Command jurisdiction.
Bases and forces are shown by country, not by precise in-country location.
U.S. access to allied bases and facilities is not shown. Only 15 percent of the Soviet Pacific Fleet is generally underway at any given time; the remainder is in homeports. The U.S. Seventh Fleet maintains an underway rate of 55 percent, and the Third Fleet is 30 percent underway.

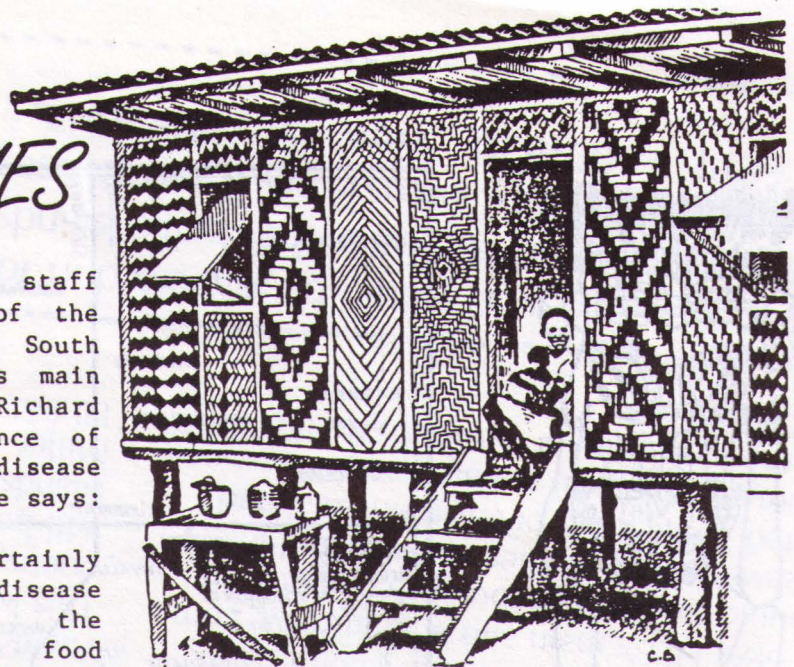
*major ballistic missile attack submarine base, fog and ice-bound in winter (USSR)

†chokepoints on Soviet navy exits to Pacific

HEALTH ISSUES

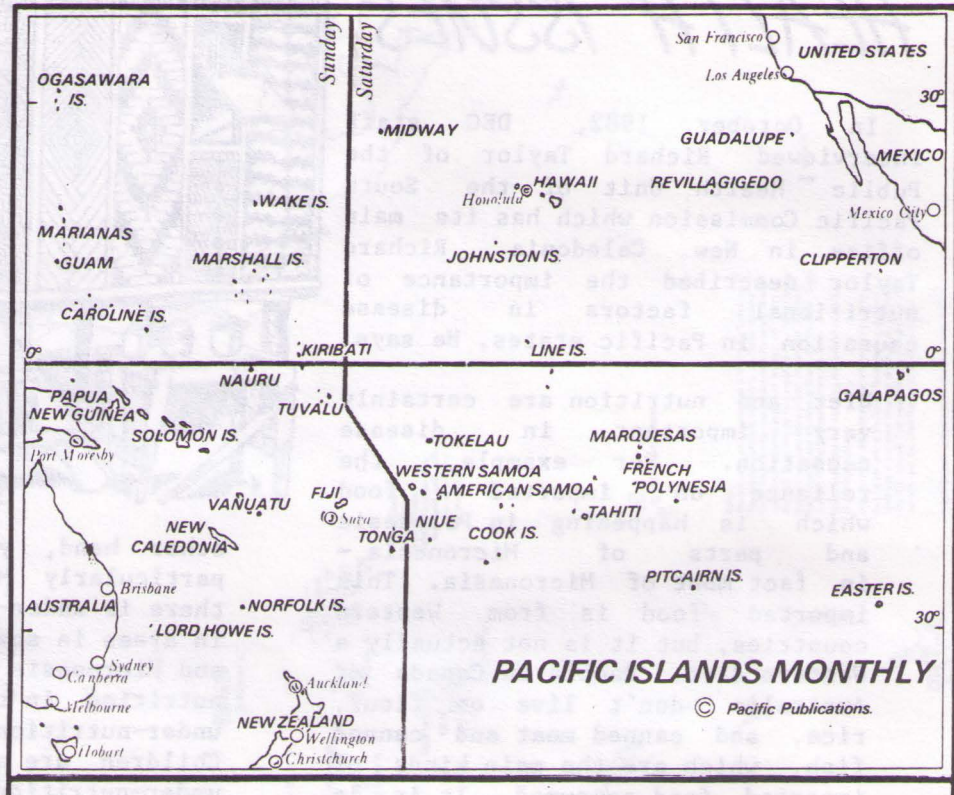
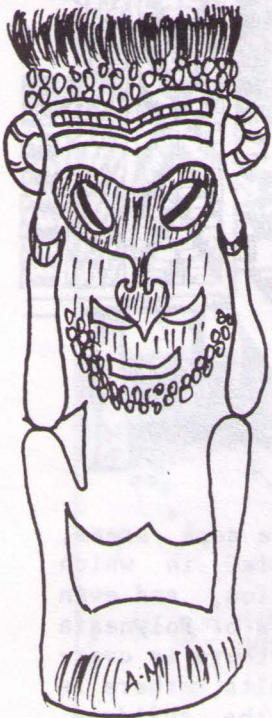
In October 1982, DEC staff interviewed Richard Taylor of the Public Health Unit of the South Pacific Commission which has its main office in New Caledonia. Richard Taylor described the importance of nutritional factors in disease causation in Pacific states. He says:

Diet and nutrition are certainly very important in disease causation. For example, the reliance on imported food which is happening in Polynesia and parts of Micronesia - in fact most of Micronesia. This imported food is from Western countries, but it is not actually a Western diet. People in Canada or Australia don't live on flour, rice, and canned meat and canned fish, which are the main kinds of imported food consumed. It is in fact the cheapest and the least nutritious variety of Western food which is consumed in the islands and this food is generally nutritionally inferior to local food and, secondly, is probably associated with the development of the diseases associated with modernization, in particular, high blood pressure and diabetes. This is probably because this food is highly salted and often has a lot of added sugar in areas where people eat a lot of sugar cane directly. It is also very calorie-dense, that is, it has a lot of calories per gram of food, and it is much easier to become obese if you are eating calorie-dense than if you are eating root crops, which contain a huge amount of fibre. It is also true that some of this imported food does have a lot of animal fat, in particular, powdered milk products or tinned meat and this can lead to elevated cholesterol in the blood and can be a contributory factor to coronary heart disease. That is one of the problems in relation to nutrition in the Pacific. On the



other hand, you have some areas, particularly Melanesia, in which there is under-nutrition, and even in areas in some parts of Polynesia and Micronesia where there is over-nutrition in the adults, there is under-nutrition in the children. Children are most susceptible to under-nutrition although it does occur also in adult women in some parts of Melanesia who have had a lot of children. You see problems with iron deficiency. This is partly a function of hookworm infestation which causes loss of iron but also it is a function of a diet which is low in iron. In some places in Melanesia the staple food is a root crop and when root crop is all you've got to eat, you've got to eat a lot of root crop to get the amount of calories, because it is very bulky. This can be a problem for children who just aren't able to consume the volume of food to get the proper calories and there has been and there is knowledge of malnutrition in a proportion of children in Melanesia. Malnutrition operates in a vicious cycle with infection because people who are malnourished are more susceptible to infection. When people get an infection, particularly an intestinal infection and particularly in children, they aren't able to eat, or absorb their food properly. That leads to more malnutrition and a vicious cycle.

* The South Pacific Commission was established after the Second World War by the then colonial governments to provide technical advice to the individual colonies. It continues this role with Pacific states today.



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