

-22nd South Pacific Forum issue-



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HEADS OF GOVERNMENT - Posing for an official group photo are the Forum Members who participated in the 22nd South Pacific Forum held in Pohnpei including Heads of Government of the Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Western Samoa. Australia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Republic of the Marshall Islands by its Minister of Health, Solomon Islands by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tonga by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defense, and Vanuatu by its Deputy Prime Minister.

The 22nd South Pacific Forum meets in Pohnpei

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The actual Forum Meeting convened July 29 in the FSM Congress Chamber at Palikir with a traditional sakau ceremony and broadcast live throughout the FSM.

Sakau was offered to the traditional leaders, the Head of Governments and their wives and oil made in Pohnpei (Marekaiiso) were presented to the Head of States.

President Bailey Olter after welcom-

ing everyone said that though this is his first time to a Forum Meeting he will do his utmost to guide the discussions to a successful conclusion. "The Gods and my grandfathers are definitely not on my side," the President said, "however, I am comforted by the fact that as I look around, I see numerous old hands, what I mean is experienced tested hands upon whom I can count on for guidance."

Olter said the Forum being held in the FSM, the farthest north in the region

ever to host the Forum, that it "emphases the Forum's achievements in bringing together countries with an enormous diversity of cultural, historical and ethnic background, spread over a vast area of ocean, and welding them into a functioning cooperative network, to the benefit of us all. Our Pacific Ocean does not separate us, it brings us together."

"A look at the growth range and depth
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of the Forum Agenda," he said, "provides another illustration of your success in meeting new and more diverse challenges. The Forum countries have always had common interests in economic cooperation. They still do; the item on development priorities for the region is one of the most important facing you."

The President said that political and environmental issues are more and more prominent these days. "There have already been notable Forum successes in these areas: in combating drift netting, in adopting the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, and in encouraging the recent constructive developments in New Caledonia, for example. The Forum has begun to pay more attention, too, to regional security. It is facing up to new environmental challenges, such as climate change. Not the least of the recent achievements is the institution of the Post-Forum Dialogue, which in the space of only three years has already developed into the major annual occasion for pursuing the region's shared concerns in relations with the principal external powers."

"This growing range of interests and achievements is indicative of the Forum process reaching maturity. The Forum is now unquestionably the preeminent meeting in our region. The links that have been built upon amongst the Forum countries have, of course, been of immense benefit in assisting each of us to tackle the many problems we have in common. But, more than that, they have enabled us, despite our small size and lack of influence individually in the international arena, to face up more confidently to the outside world. The Forum on many international issues now speaks as the United voice of the region, and it is a voice listened to with a respect out of proportion to the size of our countries," Olter said.

In addition, he said, "This aspect of the Forum's role takes on even greater significance in 1991, in a world that is going through political and economic changes unprecedented in 40 years. It is fair to say, too, that this turbulence has



OLTER ADDRESSING 22ND FORUM - FSM President Bailey Olter greets the Heads of Government during the opening day of the 22nd South Pacific Forum at the FSM Congress Chamber.

its parallels in some recent developments within the South Pacific. The issues facing the region, domestically and internationally, are becoming even more complex and numerous. The challenge for you is to come to grips with them without losing the camaraderie, the family spirit, and the informality of less complicated times which have always characterized these Forum meetings. I am sure we will succeed."

"Let me conclude by paying tribute to the Secretary General, as he comes to the end of his second term of office. His six years at the helm have coincided with a great expansion of the Forum's role and interests. The responsibilities of the Secretariat have multiplied, and it has under his leadership, fully met the challenge. The Forum's achievements over the past six years owe much to Henry's wisdom and guidance. He will be missed," the President concluded.

Discussed in the Forum Meeting are economic and trade issues and development priorities for the region was carefully looked at, taking into account the outcome of the recent Secretariat sponsored Pacific Island Countries and Donor meetings. Other topics discussed were: political and Security Issues, considering a report from its Committee on Regional Security and Information Exchange which met last November at the direction of the 21st Forum meeting in Vanuatu last year, and the report was prepared after the

Committee had considered the needs and priorities of member countries in the area of law enforcement cooperation, plus a report on New Caledonia by the Forum Ministerial Team, which toured the French Pacific in July, was also looked at; Environment, the Forum con-

sidered issues of concern to the region including a report by the Forum Ministerial visit to Washington on the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agents Disposal System; Institutional issues, the Heads of Government signed a formal agreement establishing the Forum Secretariat as a successor to the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation, worked out the agenda and arrangements for this year's Post-Forum Dialogue which convened August 1 to 2, immediately after the Forum; and the European Community (EC) joined for the first time this year, taking the Dialogue Partners number to seven with the other members from Britain, Canada, China, France, Japan, and the United States; annual reports of the following regional organizations was considered: Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), South Pacific Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP). The Forum also decided on the successor to the Forum Secretariat's Secretary General Henry Naisali who will have completed his six years of service by the end of the year.

The President in welcoming the over 70 journalists who came to cover the 22nd South Pacific Forum, held a press conference at the FSM Supreme Court, July 28, a day before the actual Forum Meeting.

Nena & Naisali address Pre-Forum Meeting

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PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Forum Officials Committee Meeting (Pre-Forum) convened July 22-24 at the FSM Congress Chamber with remarks by FSM Vice President Jacob Nena and Forum Secretariat Secretary General Henry Naisali.

Nena after welcoming the Pre-Forum to Palikir, said, "This meeting, of course, is the first in the series associated with the 22nd South Pacific Forum. As such, it marks an auspicious occasion for my government." Nena added that the FSM is grateful to Forum Heads of Government for granting the FSM this privilege.

"A glance at your very full agenda shows how much the role of the Forum has developed in recent years. Economic cooperation is still at the heart of the Forum's activities, and your discussion of development priorities for the region will be especially important. But now challenges have emerged in environmental and political areas as well. Regional security has become a concern. The Post-Forum Dialogue has grown significantly in scope, sophistication and importance in the three short years since its inception. All this shows, I think, how the Forum process has come of age. It is now clearly established at the center of all our efforts to expand regional cooperation," Nena said adding that, "The growing role of the Forum is, of course, reflected in increasingly onerous responsibilities for this Committee, particularly in formulating its recommendations to Forum leaders. You must try to ensure that, as the work of the Forum and its associated institutions becomes ever more complex, regionalism continues to deliver tangible and practical benefits to all our countries and peoples. I am sure that your advice to Forum leaders, as they meet next week, will as usual be perceptive and useful."

Nena in concluding his remarks said, "Increasing responsibilities for this Committee naturally imply also increasing responsibilities for the Secretariat, and I must commend the Secretary General and his staff for their ef-

forts since the last Forum to implement the many mandates that they have been given from the particular point of view of my own government, the advice and assistance of the Secretariat has been most valuable as we have embarked for the first time on the organization of the annual Forum and its associated meeting."

Naisali in his remarks said, "It is becoming the over-riding responsibility of the Pre-Forum Session of this Committee to assist the Forum with considered and timely policy advice.

quired by the rules, to put before this meeting."

Naisali said that the rest of the Agenda, apart from annual reports, comprises issues on which, in one way or another, leaders will be expecting the Committee's advice. "Because of this, I am happy to see so many seasoned faces around the table. As usual, your experience and wisdom will be called upon," he added.

Naisali welcomed and encouraged the new comers to the world of the Forum Officials Committee and told them not



NENA ADDRESS FORUM OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING - FSM Vice President Jacob Nena (right) addressing the Forum Officials Committee during the opening day of the committee's meeting held at the FSM Congress Chamber in Palikir, Pohnpei. From left to right are Forum Secretariat Secretary General Henry Naisali, Kiribati Secretary of Foreign Affairs Peter Timeon, and Nena.

At the same time, work program, management and administrative concerns are growing in numbers and complexity to the point where a clear separation of functions between the Pre-Forum and Budget Session is now necessary if the Committee's work is to be dealt with in the most effective manner."

Continuing he said, "With this in mind, non-policy matters have been kept to a minimum for this meeting. For instance, the Agenda does not contain a review of each separate work program activity. This should now be part of the program evaluation function of the Budget Session."

"Similarly, with Finance and Administration," said Naisali, "You need to consider only the items which the Secretariat has been requested, or is re-

to be afraid, but to express their views. "A fresh perspective is often what the older hands are looking for," he said.

"Economic and Trade issues are among the Forum's principal concerns," he said, "because they are broad fields."

Naisali told the Committee to consider the report of the Smaller Island States Committee as well as how to put muscle into participation in PCC's Pacific Island Nations Task Force, adding, "These Economic and Trade issues constitute the most important item for consideration this year. They are placed high on the agenda indicating their significance. There are also important Political and Security issues. Apart from an update on developments in New Caledonia, there is a report from the

(See Pre-Forum, Page 4)

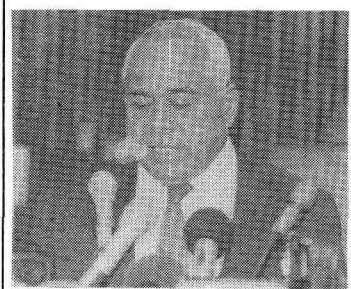
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Committee on Regional Security Information Exchange and a consultancy on Regional Law Enforcement Cooperation. The latter, as pointed out in the Secretariat's covering paper, reinforces the view that there are law enforcement needs which can be tackled on a regional basis. The Secretariat has recommended that you authorize another meeting of the security committee to draw up a program of priorities for action in this area."

Naisali said, "Last year's Forum recognized the fundamental importance of environmental issues and emphasized that sustainable development was the



OLTER AT NEWS CONFERENCE
- President Bailey Olter on July 28 held a news conference at the FSM Supreme Court.

key to the protection of the Region's resources and environment to future generations. It also agreed that strengthened institutional arrangements should be developed to address environmental concern."

"Since then SPREP has become a Regional Organization in its own right, and I would like to welcome its Director who is here for the first time as Head of a member of SPOCC. I am sure he will be able to assist us on environmental questions," said Naisali.

"There are some significant institutional issues, perhaps the major one being proposals to rationalize aspects of the Forum's system of Regional Committees. Please give these your careful consideration since they are fundamental to clarifying and improving the roles, functions and relationships of the increasing number of Regional Committees which the Secretariat is required to

service," he said.

"During the past year," he told the committee, "two special sessions for this committee have reached agreement on the text of a document to replace the SPEC Agreement. With some additional procedural amendments proposed by the Depository Government, this I hope is now ready to be recommended to the Forum for signature by Leaders. This will be an historic occasion and I congratulate you for the spirit of consensus which enabled you to finalize the text of a document which will govern the Secretariat well into the twenty-first century."

"Another important institutional matter," Naisali added, "is the relationship of the Tourism Council of the South Pacific to the Forum. You are asked to consider this question again in the light of a recent decision that Australia and New Zealand are now eligible, should they wish, to take up membership of the Council."

He said that, "An urgent task is the review of arrangements for the Post-Forum dialogue Meetings. As recommended by the Committee on Post-Forum Dialogue Partners, the best way of setting about this would be to set up a small working group." He suggested that this working group be convened as quickly as possible and that its membership be kept to a minimum, perhaps even confined to members of the Dialogue Panel itself, to ensure expeditious handling of the briefs.

Naisali told the Committee that they will need to review the agenda for the Forum, adding, "the Secretariat has some ideas on improving the link between that agenda and the report to the Forum from this Committee and also the way in which the Forum's Communique is drafted."

"An innovation is the reintroduction of a review of Secretariat activities, combined with the report on actions taken since the last Forum. In recent times the Annual Report of the Secretary General, has evolved from a report to the Committee to a general-purpose document for public distribution. The need remains, however, for a formal

reporting procedure on the Secretariat's activities over the past twelve months," he said.

"On a more general note, since this is my last attendance as Secretary General at a Pre-Forum session of the Committee," Naisali said, "I would like to pay tribute to the way in which member governments - at both Heads of Government and Official levels - have sup-



BOLGER AT NEWS CONFERENCE - New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger informed the Media in a news conference, July 28 of what was discussed during the retreat held at the Village Hotel. The news conference was held on board the H.M.N.Z.S.U Tui, which was in Pohnpei during the Forum for communication means for New Zealand delegation.

ported the development of the Secretariat during my term of office. The path has not always been easy, and we have had our occasional differences. But, by acting together and by demonstrating a willingness when needed to make concessions in the greater interest, we have advanced the common cause of regionalism."

He recalled his first Forum as Secretary General in Suva in 1986 that he had a difficult task of putting a mini-budget to Heads of Government to overcome some quite severe financial problems facing the Secretariat, but happily reported at the end of this year that he will be able to hand over a Secretariat which is on a very firm financial footing.

He left to member governments any formal judgement on the present condition of the Secretariat. He said that he has no intention of highlighting its supposed successes, or listing its alleged

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Communique of the 22nd South Pacific Forum

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The 22nd South Pacific Forum was held in Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM from the 29 to 30 of July 1991, and was attended by Heads of Government of the Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Western Samoa. Australia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Republic of the Marshall Islands by its Minister of Health, Solomon Islands by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tonga by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defense, and Vanuatu by its Deputy Prime Minister, according to the Forum Communique.

The Forum discussed economic development and trade prospects for the region; environmental matters including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; the importance of ongoing discussions on regional security; developments in New Caledonia; and the region's approach to global issues.

Economic Development:

The Forum expressed concern at the continuing difficult economic situation facing many member governments. It endorsed the view that while many issues, such as programs of economic structural adjustment, needed action at the national level, there was also a key role for regional action. The Forum noted that while the delivery of substantial aid flows remained of critical importance to Forum Island Countries, there was a need for greater emphasis to be given to issued involving the private sector including trade and investment.

The Forum recognized the importance of continuing high level economic discussions between Forum Island Countries and the region's major development partners. It was pleased to note the firm resolve shown by all those interested in South Pacific development to foster greater levels of cooperation, coordination and policy dialogue. In this regard a number of important issues were identified for further development including higher education and training and refinement of aid consultative mechanisms. It was fundamental that all agencies involved in these activities in the region continued to work closely together, coordinating their efforts to the greatest extent possible. The Forum particularly emphasized the role of the South Pacific Organizations Coordinating Committee in this regard.

The Forum was particularly concerned about duplication of activities between regional programmes and organizations. It

therefore welcomed the proposal that the Forum Secretariat work with other regional organizations and donors to develop a statement of priority program needs for the region that could be met through collaborative regional assistance programs complementing national activities..

The Forum agreed that the region should continue to promote links with the rest of the world including non-Forum territories in the Pacific and that links should continue to be strengthened with groupings such as APEC and PECC and that the relationship between the Secretariat and the ASEAN Secretariat continue to be fostered. The Forum joined others in the international community in urging all participants in the Uruguay Round to commit themselves to a comprehensive and successful end to the negotiations this year and underlined the importance of fair trading systems to Forum member countries.

The Forum also confirmed that the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands continue his discussions with the United States authorities regarding funding and the structure of the proposed Joint Commercial Commission (JCC) between Forum Island Countries and the United States to be initially located at the East- West Center in Hawaii. It also accepted that the JCC would be initially composed of the United States and the 13 Forum Island Countries as proposed by the United States but wished the opportunity to remain for other Pacific Island Governments to become members of the Commission in future. Forum members agreed that upon the establishment of the JCC, Mr Jioji Kotobalavu would be appointed as their Executive Secretary.

Energy:

Given the importance of the energy sector, the Forum welcomed the offer of Fiji to host a meeting of Forum Energy Ministers on August 29-30 this year to consider oil pricing policies as they affected economic development in Forum Island Countries. It further endorsed the need for the Secretariat to continue to monitor and analyze international oil prices and the cost structure of oil companies in reaching the prices of oil products charged in Forum Island Countries.

Consumer Protection:

The Forum supported efforts to develop a more regional approach to consumer protection matters. In this context it welcomed the holding of a further regional Seminar on Consumer Protection in Western Samoa later this year. All member governments undertook to examine closely the United Nations

Guidelines on Consumer Protection.

Smaller Island State:

The Forum recognized the special development requirements of the Smaller Island States of the Forum and recommended that the international donor community take these into account when providing assistance to those Forum members. The Forum welcomed the offer by the Cook Islands Government to host a meeting in November 1991 of Heads of Government of the Smaller Island States. The Forum Secretariat would facilitate this meeting drawing on funding to be made available by Australia under a new program to foster the development of the private sector in the South Pacific.

Environment:

The Forum reaffirmed the fundamental importance to the region of environmental issues and acknowledged the critical linkages between the protection and conservation of the environment and sustainable economic development. It stressed the need to articulate Pacific interests clearly and comprehensively in the negotiation of international conventions on climate change and biodiversity as well as in other environmental forums. The Forum also reaffirmed the obligation of all countries to cooperate to conserve and protect the environment and to promote appropriate and sustainable development policies in order that the well-being of future generations could be assured.

It welcomed progress on decisions made the previous year on the need for strong institutional arrangements to address these concerns with the marked strengthening of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) into a fully autonomous regional organization and the decision to establish SPREP's Headquarters in Western Samoa.

The Forum welcomed the entry into force of the Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention) and its associated Protocols concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region and the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping. It also welcomed the entry into force of the Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention).

The June 1991 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) would be of critical importance to the future of the region. The importance of the regional preparation of UNCED and

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6 Economic development and Trade prospects in

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its preparatory meetings as firmly underlined by the Forum. The Forum expressed its full support for the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development issued by Ministers and representatives at the July 809 SPREP Intergovernmental Meeting. The Forum also noted the South Pacific regional statement to be presented at the third meeting of the UNCED Preparatory Committee in August 1991. It agreed that the Forum's support for the Declaration be conveyed to all relevant international bodies with the aim of ensuring that all account was taken of South Pacific concerns. For the people of the Pacific, the sea was a most important part of their environment and in this regard the Forum urged those member states who had yet to ratify the Law of the Sea Convention to do so.

The Forum agreed that its members be collectively represented, at ministerial level where possible, with coordination and support from SPREP, at the Preparatory Committees leading up to the Conference as these will take many of the key decisions. The third and fourth Preparatory Committees were of particular importance in this regard. At the UNCED Conference itself participation at the highest possible political level would be desirable to focus attention on the region's interest. Given the complexity and size of the UNCED process the Forum considered that issues could be usefully engaged in concert with other like-minded countries, especially members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). Consideration should be given to a coordinated strategy whereby Forum representatives might "specialize" as spokesperson for the region on specific issues. Support from SPREP would be vital. The Forum urged international support to facilitate the effective participation of the Forum Island Countries at the Preparatory Committees and the UNCED itself.

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise:

Global warming and sea level rise were the most serious environmental threats to the Pacific region. The cultural, economic and physical survival of Pacific nations was at great risk.

The Forum confirmed the importance for all members of the international community to develop a Framework Convention on Climate Change. In this regard it applauded the efforts of AOSIS. It stressed the urgency of securing international action through the timely conclusion of a strong and substantive global convention with commitments to control the adverse effects of climate change

by, inter alia, significant and immediate reductions in emissions of industrially generated greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide. The Forum noted the primary responsibility of industrial countries for reducing these emissions. The Forum noted that the Intergovernmental negotiating Committee on a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC/FCCC) had acknowledged the need to accommodate the special interests and needs of Small Island States. It stressed the need to identify those needs and interests clearly and comprehensively, and to communicate them to the INC prior to its third negotiating session in September 1991. It recognized the importance of SPREP playing a central technical and coordinating role.

The Forum recognized that progress towards the stabilization of greenhouse gas emissions was directly linked to commitments to achieve greater energy efficiency and to develop appropriate alternative energy sources and technologies. It called upon all countries, but particularly developed countries, to give high priority to continuing research, development and transfer of technologies in these areas. The Forum agreed to communicate these concerns to the INC and to all other relevant international bodies.

Nuclear Testing:

The Forum remained concerned that despite long standing opposition by the Forum, France continued to carry out nuclear testing in the region. It noted that this was despite France's welcome decision to become a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its signature and ratification of the SPREP Convention and its Protocols. The Forum expressed its deep dismay that the French Government had formally stated that its nuclear testing program in the South Pacific would not be affected by the decision to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Forum reiterated its firm and unceasing opposition to nuclear testing in the region. In this regard the Forum agreed to give consideration to an expanded program of opposition to France's nuclear testing in the region. It suggested that SPREP play a central role in monitoring and evaluating the environmental impact of nuclear testing in the region.

Dumping of Toxic and Hazardous Waste:

Concern was expressed about the potential for the region to become a dumping ground for toxic and hazardous waste and chemicals and radioactive materials. In this regard, the Forum commended the London Dumping Convention (LDC) for its recent

progressive stance on ocean dumping, and in particular for its 1990 decision to phase out industrial waste dumping at sea. The Forum expressed support for Forum Island Country members who were seeking to codify these advances by amendment of the LDC. The Forum noted its desire to culminate this procedure at the Fifteenth Consultative Meeting of the LDC in 1992 coincide with the UNCED Conference.

Driftnet Fishing:

The Forum reaffirmed its commitment to the Tarawa Declaration which, inter alia, committed members of the Forum to the cessation of driftnet fishing within their waters and to actively contribute to international efforts to prohibit the practice. In this regard the Forum welcomed the entry into force on May 17, 1991 of the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific and reaffirmed its call for all eligible countries to accede to the Convention and its Protocols, as appropriate.

The Forum also reiterated that Resolution 44/225 and 45/197, in which the United Nations mandated the complete cessation of driftnet fishing in the South Pacific region by July 1, 1991 and the imposition of moratoria in all regions of the world on all large scale driftnet fishing on the high seas by June 30, 1992, should be fully implemented. The Forum called for continued vigilance and cooperation by Forum members and other like-minded states during consideration of this issue at the United Nations General Assembly and noted that in compliance with Resolutions 45/197, Forum members in consultation with the Forum Fisheries Agency would be submitting a report on the impact of driftnet fishing to the Secretary General.

Biodiversity:

The Forum noted that the Pacific region was one of the world's centers of biological diversity. The many thousands of islands had a rich complex of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The maintenance of the region's biological diversity was critically important to ecologically sustainable development throughout the region and the world. The Forum recognized the fundamental importance of their biological resources to the people of the Pacific region and endorsed the development of agricultural, forestry, mining and fishing practices which encouraged the maintenance of Pacific biological diversity.

JACADS:

The Forum considered the Report of the
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he region dominates the agenda of the 22nd SPF

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Ministerial Mission on JACADS. Subsequently the United States had, at the request of Solomon Islands Government, removed World War II chemical munitions to Johnston Atoll. The Forum again recorded Pacific opposition to JACADS and reaffirmed the fundamental importance of advice and consent of Pacific governments in any future actions by any state that could impact upon the health and well-being of Pacific people. A Forum scientific mission to monitor the progress and safety of JACADS would be undertaken in the near future and would report its findings to all member governments.

The Forum welcomed and accepted as binding U.S. assurances that it would cease the operation of JACADS and dismantle the facility following the destruction of chemical weapons now on Johnston Atoll (and any further stocks discovered in the Forum region). The Forum expressed its appreciation of U.S. efforts to keep Forum Governments informed on the operations of the JACADS facility and looked forward to continuing dialogue with the U.S. on this matter. The Forum urged the U.S. to bring Johnston Atoll under the SPREP Convention regime.

Regional Security:

The Forum stressed that, in a rapidly changing global political and economic scene, exchange of information and dialogue amongst member governments was increasingly important. It also concluded that there was further scope for effective regional cooperation in the law enforcement field. Recent work had revealed that this was a complex area and that individual countries had different priorities. The Forum Regional Security Committee was directed to consider priorities and resource needs when Forum Governments had completed national assessments.

The Forum expressed its continuing concern over the grave social consequences of drug abuse and the illegal traffic in narcotic drugs. Forum Governments renewed their commitment to cooperate in combating drug abuse and drug trafficking. In this connection it expressed support for proposals to increase the resources available to regional organizations combating drug abuse and drug trafficking. It also expressed support for various proposals to help develop the capacity of small island countries to successfully address law enforcement problems associated with drug abuse, drug trafficking and other related issues.

Decolonization:

The Forum once again reaffirmed the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and the principles and practices of the United Nations pertaining thereto. In this connection, the Forum noted that the United Nations had now embarked on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and renewed its request that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, or a specially designated representative of the Secretary-General, visit each of the territories which remained on the United Nations list of non self-governing territories. The Forum also renewed its proposal that an extensive study of the remaining non self-governing territories be undertaken by the United Nations and the results widely distributed, and that countries be requested to consider adopting national legislation to promote and safeguard the human rights of peoples living under colonialism.

Western Sahara:

The Forum expressed satisfaction with the recent progress made toward achieving a just and lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara. In this connection Forum Governments congratulated the POLISARIO Front and the Kingdom of Morocco on this achievement, and commended the role played by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations in contributing to a suitable solution consistent with the principles and practices of the United Nations.

New Caledonia:

The Forum once again drew attention to the close links which existed between the people of New Caledonia, particularly the indigenous Kanacks, and other peoples of the South Pacific, and acknowledged the constructive actions being taken by all involved to facilitate the further development of those links.

The Forum noted the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote equitable political, economic and social development in the territory, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful evolution to self-determination.

The Forum stressed the great importance of equitable economic and social development, transparency in the preparation of the electoral rolls, and continued dialogue among all the parties involved in New Caledonia in

preparation for an act of self-determination, consistent with the principles and practices of the United Nations, in which all options, including independence were open, and which would safeguard the rights of the indigenous Kanaks and those of all other New Caledonians.

Forum Governments again expressed the hope that the French authorities, and others, would expand their assistance for education and training opportunities for the Kanak population, in order to enable all New Caledonians to exercise their right of self-determination under the best possible conditions. They reiterated their hope that the French authorities would facilitate regular visits to New Caledonia by visiting missions of the United Nations.

The Forum would continue its active and vigilant observation of developments in New Caledonia. It congratulated the Ministerial Committee established by the 21st Forum on its very useful interim report. The Forum directed that the final report be widely distributed, including at the United Nations, and asked the Committee to continue its work. The Forum expressed the hope that the French authorities would continue to facilitate visits to New Caledonia by representatives, including Heads of Government of Forum countries.

The Forum's intention was to promote increasing contacts with New Caledonia, including by invitations, on a case-by-case basis as appropriate, to French Pacific territories to participate in Forum advisory committees, seminars and workshops. The Forum also acknowledged the usefulness of cultural events where through invitation to the various ethnic groups in New Caledonia, informal contacts with them could be promoted. Informal contacts with political groups within New Caledonia during the annual Forum meeting should be continued. It expressed the hope that other groups would take advantage of this opportunity.

The Forum offered to assist the FLNKS in developing a program of action for ensuring their objectives were met through the Matignon Accords. It further agreed to the establishment of a fund to assist with the training of Kanaks within and outside the region to be administered by the Secretariat.

South Africa:

The Forum reviewed the situation in South Africa and noted the positive measures taken over the past year to dismantle institutionalized apartheid. Forum Governments called upon those who currently governed South

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8 Forum pledge supports for FSM and Marshalls to join the UN

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Africa to take the further steps necessary to accelerate the process of totalling dismantling apartheid, and its various vestiges and effects. The Forum noted with dismay the revelation of South African Government involving in covert political destabilization and called upon it to take such steps as were necessary to restore its credibility and set the course of negotiations back on a proper path. The Forum, while accepting the appropriateness of a phased relaxation of sanctions as major progress was made in dismantling apartheid, believed that some form of external discipline should be maintained upon the South African Government until a fully democratic political and social system was achieved.

Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly:

The Forum unanimously reaffirmed its endorsement of the candidacy of the Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Ft. Honorable Sir Michael Somare, for the position of President of the 46th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Given the significant changes taking place around the world, it also strongly supported the theme of "Managing Change" proposed by Sir Michael as an important issue to be pursued at the United Nations.

Security of Small States:

The Forum welcomed the liberation of Kuwait from foreign occupation and urged the international community to consider effective peaceful measures to assure the security and territorial integrity of all militarily or economically vulnerable smaller states. In this connection, Forum Governments urged all members of the world community to work together for the effective implementation of all United Nations resolutions on this subject, as well as the progressive development of, and respect for, international law.

Forum Country Initiative:

Heads of Government pledged their support and commended: Applications of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia to join the United Nations as full members. The Forum called upon the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations to welcome unanimously these applications for membership in the United Nations.

The candidacy of New Zealand for the United Nations Security Council for a two year term in 1993-94. Members also re-

called their pledges of support for Japan's candidacy.

Application of Nauru for membership of the Asian Development Bank.

The proposal for the convening of a Pacific Summit for Children and requested that the Secretary General discuss this proposal with his colleague, the Secretary General of the South Pacific Commission and submit a report to the 23rd South Pacific Forum.

The Forum received the report of the Rorotonga Workshop on the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The 40th Anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Both South Korea and North Korea in their respective bids for membership of the United Nations.

Tourism:

The Forum acknowledged the importance of tourism to the economic development of the region and that linkages with the Forum by the Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP) were important to ensure regional tourism development proposals were coordinated closely with other priorities. The Forum recognized the TCSP as a regional intergovernmental organization and agreed that it should have a reporting relationship with the Forum.

Post-Forum Dialogue:

The Forum endorsed the value of the Post-Forum Dialogue as an important opportunity to exchange views on international and regional issues with the main external powers with interests in the South Pacific. It adopted procedural changes designed to encourage participation in the Dialogue at a high level, and to enable the Dialogue to address fully the global and regional policy issues of mutual concern of Forum countries with the Dialogue Partners.

Observer Status at Forum Meetings:

The Forum decided that there should be no change to existing criteria for Post-Forum Dialogue Partners, or to the current list of Partners. It directed the Secretariat to examine the possibility of a separate meeting for exchange of views with representatives of Taiwan/Republic of China.

The Forum decided that there should be no change to existing criteria for observer status. It noted that the Secretary General was clarifying with the Governments of the

Republic of Palau and French Polynesia their interest in observer status at the Forum.

Donor Support for Forum Programs:

The Forum welcomed the strong support provided by a wide range of donors to the programs being implemented by the Forum Secretariat. In particular it recognized the contributions now being made by non-member countries and organizations as implementing agents for a number of regional programs such as those funded under the UNDP Fifth Cycle Regional Program.

Appointment of Secretary General:

The Forum received and adopted annual reports of: Directors of the Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Island Development Program, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, and South Pacific Regional Environment Program, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific, and Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat.

The Forum appointed the Honorable Jeremiah Tabai, GCMG, of Kiribati as the new Secretary General for the Forum Secretariat.

The Forum acclaimed the invaluable contributions and historic achievements of the outgoing secretary General, The Honorable Henry Naisali, who in his six years in office had presided over the development of the Forum Secretariat into the highly professional body it was today. Forum Leaders wished him long life, happiness and success in his future endeavors.

SOPAC:

The Forum supported the application of Philipp Muller and strongly supported his appointment as the new Director of SOPAC. It expressed appreciation for the services and contributions of Muller, the outgoing Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency and Jioji Kotobalavu, the outgoing Director of SOPAC.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting:

The Forum accepted with appreciation the kind offer of Solomon Islands Government to host the 23rd South Pacific Forum and Nauru to host the 24th South Pacific Forum. The Forum agreed that it was desirable that the hosting of the Forum should revert thereafter to the practice of proceeding in alphabetical order, commencing with Australia, subject to the Forum determining that special circumstances (e.g. Papua New Guinea's 20th Anniversary in 1995) warranted a variation.

FSM welcomes USS Racine upon arrival

6 THE NATIONAL UNION, July 30, 1991

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - A welcoming ceremony was held at the Pohnpei State Dock in welcoming the USS Racine upon arrival, July 21 to provide logistic support for the 22nd South Pacific Forum held in Pohnpei.

Vice President Jacob Nena in his remarks welcomed on behalf of President Bailey Olter and the FSM, the USS Racine Commander Covert and officials, staff and crew to the FSM Capital.

Nena expressed FSM's gratefulness to the U.S. Government, particularly the U.S. Navy for the USS Racine to provide logistic support enabling the FSM to host the 22nd South Pacific Forum. He commended U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Aurelia E. Brazeal for playing a key role in the arrangement.

"The FSM takes great pride in its special relation with the U.S.A. under the Compact of Free Association," said Nena adding that the FSM will continue to develop the relationship with the U.S. Government, as we have done in the past for the mutual benefits of both countries.



NENA WELCOMES RACINE - Vice President Jacob Nena welcomes the USS Racine and commended U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Aurelia Brazeal for the arrangement of the Racine to assist during the Forum.

Brazeal in her remarks said that the U.S. Government is very pleased that the USS Racine has come to Pohnpei to support the FSM during the Forum. "The Embassy is at your service while you're here and we looked forward to getting to know the crew of the Racine and for you to know the people of the FSM."

Commander Harold D. Covert said they have travelled almost 6000 miles to be in Pohnpei in support of the 1991 Forum and they were truly honored to be chosen for that.



WELCOMING USS RACINE - Welcoming Commander Harold D. Covert of the USS Racine (right) upon arrival at Pohnpei State Dock were FSM Vice President Jacob Nena, (left) U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Aurelia E. Brazeal, (3rd from the left), Chief, U.S. Relations, and Chairman of the Forum Planning Committee Epel Ilon, (2nd from the left), and Deputy Chief, U.S. Relations Gabriel Ayin (back).

"The officers and crew of the Racine are looking forward to the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the people of Pohnpei and to explore an island which usually is rich in history and tradition."

The 22nd South Pacific Forum convened at the FSM Congress Chamber with the Pre-Forum Meeting on July 22-24, Actual Forum Meeting on July 29-30, and the Post-Forum Dialogue on August 1-2.

The USS Racine provided rooms for the over 70 journalists who came to Pohnpei to cover the Forum Meetings and the other FSM officials and dignitaries who travelled from the other three states to Pohnpei for the Forum.

While the USS Racine was providing accommodation for the Forum the crew of the Racine were out on land with the Pohnpei based Civic Action Team (CAT), repairing the Spanish wall, constructing a two-room addition to the elementary school in Sokehs which foundation was prepared by the CAT Team, scraping, priming and painting hallways, medical wards, and replacing a drinking fountain, and repairing plumbing of a bathroom and painting wall at the Pohnpei State Hospital. The medical team visited villages and island municipalities and treated patients.

The Racine off-loaded 98 pallets of Projects Handclasp material on Pohnpei, including educational books for the distribution to schools in Pohnpei. Over 4 tons of animal feed was given to the Agriculture and several pallets of medical and hygiene supplies and assorted materials were delivered to the Pohnpei Hospital.

The crew also visited Nan Madol and other places on Pohnpei before steaming to Guam then to its Long Beach, California home port.

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failures, adding that any progress made during his term of office is due to the excellent cooperation prevailing among member countries themselves. All achievements were collective achievements. "We were able to solve our problems together," he said, "and I want to express my appreciation for that."

"There is always scope for improvement," the Secretary General stated, "though, and one way in which member government could - and should - assist is by providing quicker responses on questions which the Secretariat has been mandated to action. The most constant problem the Secretariat has had to contend with during my time has been the frequent necessity to work in something of a vacuum because of lack of advice from members. Could I entreat you to be easier on my successor in this regard, please?"

"I wish on this occasion especially to offer a special word of praise to the dedicated staff of the Secretariat. The region is fortunate in having at its disposal such a first-class team. I hope member governments recognized this and continue to make full use of their services. I can tell you that I am the only person who really knows how much the staff contribute on all matter of issues. They have, as their objective, a desire to further the interests of the region and they pursue this objective to the maximum extent possible. Within the broad mandates set for the Secretariat, the issues covered by the staff are numerous and varied. They never shirk away from the extra hard work required. In many areas, their efforts often go unnoticed as it is the major issues of concern to the Forum which receive most coverage. I assure you there is many more concern of relevance to Forum members which gain their attention. I wish them and the organization the very best for the future," Naisali said.

He reminded the Committee, "We should at all times remember the legacy handed down to us by the founders of the Forum - that consensus is the only basis for resolving difficult issues. I



NEWS CONFERENCE - The 22nd South Pacific Forum Spokesman Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara held a news conference at the FSM Supreme Court to report to the Media of what was being discussed in the Forum Meeting.

hope this principle continues to be upheld as the world grows in complexity and sophistication. Now, more than ever, we need to stay united if our collective voice is to be heeded beyond the region. At the same time the informality for which the Forum is renowned must be maintained. Consensus and informality are our inheritance. Please safeguard them."

Naisali in concluding his remarks said, "In the opening speech of my very first Pre-Forum Meeting in 1986, my closing remarks came from a quote by a Leader at a previous Forum. I have been reading it again lately and it still seems so appropriate that I want to repeat it to you at my last Pre-Forum Meeting. Here it is.

'Quote: We need to be guided by the Pacific art of consensus which need not in any way dilute or weaken our national convictions. For it is surely true that underlying the spirit of consensus which has governed our indigenous communities since time immemorial, is a unity of purpose. Of course it will not always be that the Forum States are in total agreement, but it should be possible for them to always be in harmony with one another. Unquote'

Ladies and Gentlemen, it remains for me to extend thanks on behalf of all of us to the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia for the excellent arrangements they have made, and the facilities they have put at our disposal,

to assist the successful outcome of this meeting. I wish you well in your deliberations," he commended.

The Committee meeting adjourned, July 25, with the next morning reserved for possible Committee Session if required for adoption of Forum Official Committee Report according to the Official Program.



CHINA EMBASSADOR TURNS OVER BAGS TO FSM - China Ambassador in a brief ceremony at External Affairs turned over the bags donated by China to the FSM to be used for the Forum. Accepting the bags for the FSM were External Affairs Acting Secretary Asterio Takesy and Chief, U.S. Relations, and Chairman of the Forum Planning Committee Epel Illon. From left to right are : China Ambassador Li Qinqing, Takesy, and Illon.

6 were awarded scholarship

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM Scholarship Board comprising of representatives from the FSM States, convened in July to review 28 applications which six were selected and 22 were incomplete, according to the FSM Student Coordinator Danny Leopold.

The Board awarded a total of \$18,000 from the Continental Scholarships to three selected students including Mai Ling Perman of Pohnpei and Alex A. Tara of Kosrae who are studying at Fiji School of Medicine, University of South Pacific, \$5,000 and \$6,500 respectively; and John Yarofalir of Yap who is studying at John Bem Medical School, University of Hawaii, \$6,500.

Seventeen thousand six hundred dollars (\$17,600) from the Graduate Studies Scholarships were awarded to the other three selected students including Makichy Ned, studying at Arizona State University toward a Masters of Arts in Public Administration, \$5,000; Fabian Nimea, majoring in Foreign Relations at Creighton University of Nebraska, \$5,000; and Nasako Weires, studying for a Masters of Arts in Education at Concordia Teacher College in Nebraska, \$7,600. All three selected students are from the state of Chuuk.

The members of the Board are: Office of Planning and Statistics Consultant John Mangefel of Yap, Community College of Micronesia Director of Financial Aides Lori Nena of Chuuk, Bank of the FSM, Kosrae Branch Manager Aren Palik of Kosrae, Kolonia Calvary Baptist Church Ordain Minister and FSM Scholarship Board Chairman Rev. Isamu Welles of Pohnpei, and Department of Human Resources Acting Secretary for Education Dr. Catalino Cantero.



CHARGE D'AFFAIRS OF THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TURNS OVER THE VEHICLE KEYS TO THE FSM - Australian Embassy Charge d'Affairs David Nethery officially turned over the keys of the 15 units of vehicles, July 15 to Acting Secretary of External Affairs Asterio Takesy who accepted the keys for the FSM Government in a brief ceremony held near one of the vehicle in the presence of Chief, U.S. Relations and Chairman of the Forum Planning Committee Epel Illon, and FSM Ambassador to Fiji Alik Alik. The 15 brand new white four-door Nissan sedans arrived in June from Japan for chauffeuring the Head of States to and from the meeting. The Government of Australia donated U.S. \$150,000 to be used for the Forum, which went toward the payment of the 15 vehicles. From left to right are: Illon, Takesy, Nethery, and Alik.

FSM Postal Service stamp released

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM Postal Service released in July, the latest FSM stamp issue.

These five stamps and one souvenir sheet commemorate the first anniversary of the Persian gulf war, dubbed "operation desert storm" of which over sixty plus FSM citizens did participate as members of the U.S. armed forces.

These stamps are available at all the post offices throughout the nation and at the Philatelic Bureau in Kolonia, Pohnpei. Their value is \$.29 and \$2.90 reflecting the new rates for domestic/ U.S. air mail and U.S. priority mail.

Residents and guests are encouraged to buy these stamps as well as the other FSM stamps available. FSM stamps are available for a limited period of time, after which they are taken out of circulation.

The Postal Service also in June, released a set of two stamped envelopes: its third printed since the establishment of the Postal Service in 1984. The stamp issues printed on both envelopes features the new Congress Chamber Building in Palikir, Pohnpei, had been taken from a portion of the architect's original drawing of the Capital Complex. The envelopes have a face value of 29 cents which is the current postage rate for domestic airmail for letters.

The first stamped envelope was issued in 1984. It features the FSM flag and the second was issued in 1987 showing the Senyavin, the Russian ship that explored these islands in the past.

These airmail envelopes were printed by House of Questa in London. They are available at all Post Offices and Branches in the FSM and at the Philatelic Bureau in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

¹² Forum Spokesman announces new Secretary General

THE NATIONAL UNION, July 30, 1991

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The spokesman for the 22nd South Pacific Forum Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara on July 16 announced that the successor to the outgoing Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat Henry Naisali is Ieremia Tabai, according to a release from the Forum Secretariat.

Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said the appointment of the former President of Kiribati was reached by consensus at the informal retreat by the leaders held at the Village Hotel in Pohnpei, FSM.

The announcement coincided with the opening of a two-day meeting of Heads of Government and representatives of the 15 members of the South

Pacific Forum which began July 16, 1991.

Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said a very good field of candidates had applied for the post of Secretary General, paying tribute to Henry Naisali, the current Secretary General for having done an outstanding job in guiding the Secretariat to where it is today.

"I believe Tabai will continue to build on the excellent work that Naisali has done," Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said. Tabai is expected to take up his new appointment early in 1992 when Naisali leaves.

The forum has also endorsed the nomination of Philipp Muller of West-ern Samoa to the current Director of the

Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), based in Honiara, Solomon Islands as the new Director of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC).

Muller is to succeed Jioji Kotabalavu of Fiji whose nomination as Executive Secretary to the United States, Forum Island Countries Joint Commercial Commission (JCC) has been endorsed by the Forum leaders. The JCC will be headquartered within the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. The JCC is a United States initiative put forward by President Bush at a summit with island leaders in Honolulu last October.

At present, FFA's Director is Sir Peter Kenilorea of the Solomon Islands, current Minister for Foreign Affairs.



OFFICIAL COMMITTEE - Posing for an official group photo are the members of the Forum Officials Committee Meeting held at the FSM Congress Chamber prior to the 22nd South Pacific Forum which was held at the same venue.

THE NATIONAL UNION

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