

**SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM
(SPREP) COMPILATION OF PAPERS**

**COMPILED BY: BUREAU OF PLANNING
OCTOBER 03, 1995**

South Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP)

Mission

To protect and improve the South Pacific Region's environment and ensure sustainable development for future generations by promoting cooperation and providing assistance.

SPREP's Structure

- SPREP is a regional organization established by the governments of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories, and 4 developed countries. Its headquarters is located in Apia, Western Samoa.
- The SPREP Agreement agreed to during June 1993 provides the legal basis for SPREP's existence.
- SPREP's governing body is the SPREP Meeting, which is attended by representatives from all member countries and from those territories given authorization to attend by their governing country.
- SPREP's Secretariat members are: Director - Dr. Vili Fuavao; and Deputy Director - Mr. Donald Stewart.

Membership Dues

- Paid by GEPA, Guam's membership contribution to SPREP in 1993 was \$11,445.
- Guam was assessed the same amount for 1994. The dues were not paid for reasons discussed below.

Actions Leading to Guam's Withdrawal from SPREP

- During the time SPREP was under the South Pacific Commission, Guam was a full member with full membership voting rights. On several occasions, Guam took environmental policy positions opposite of those of the U.S. (ie., Japanese Plutonium shipments, nuclear dumping and the drift gill-net issue).
- During the process of developing the SPREP treaty, the U.S. held the position that its territories cannot sign treaties. More importantly, the U.S. did not want its Territories to have a vote.
- The U.S. informed the SPREP membership that if full membership is given to its Territories, it would withdraw all financial support to SPREP.
- Rather than bowing to the U.S. position and putting the other member countries in a difficult position of deciding between Guam or the U.S., Governor Ada withdrew Guam from SPREP. Specifically, he withdrew to protest the "insensitivity and outright imperialist attitudes" of the U.S.

Guam's Current Relationship to SPREP

The previous Administration decided:

- Guam will continue to exchange technical information.
- Guam will provide technical assistance to SPREP.
- Guam will not accept financial assistance from SPREP.
- Guam will not pay dues or provide financial support to SPREP

Benefits Derived from Guam's Present Relationship with SPREP:

- Receipt of regional environmental publications, information sharing, contacts, and notification of seminars and meetings.
- Guam has attended various workshops & meetings, i.e. 4th Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Program Meeting, Technical Meeting on Regional Pollution Prevention and Waste Management, and Sub-Regional Meeting to Identify Coastal Management Training Requirements. Per diem and travel was paid by SPREP.



Territory of Guam
Teritorion Guam

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
UPSHAN I MAGAYLANS
AGANA, GUAM 96910 U.S.A.

Dr. Vili A. Fuavao
Director
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
P.O. Box 240
Apia, Western Samoa

Hafa Adai Dr. Fuavao:

We are in receipt of SPREP Circular 236 regarding outstanding member's contributions.

Although Guam is not a sitting member, the Governor has expressed his willingness for Guam to exchange technical information with SPREP. Guam's participation in areas of the work programme have proven to be of mutual benefit. Also at any time, if needed, Guam offers SPREP technical support or assistance.

While Guam has participated in many SPREP-funded meetings and workshops, and has benefitted from such, we cannot now be billed for "membership contributions" when Guam is no longer a member of the organization.

We felt we had made it clear in June of last year, after the organization voted against granting Guam full membership, that we would not participate as second class citizens of the organization. We have spent too many years as second class citizens of the United States to continue that relationship in other organizations.

SPREP, in denying Guam full membership, acted in accordance with the desires of the U.S. Department of State. If that Federal authority wishes to exclude us from organizations, and wishes to act as if they are our voice, then perhaps they should receive the bill for Guam's participation.

Until Guam is granted the full rights of membership which we enjoyed previously in the organization, it would be neither just or right that we pay a membership contribution.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase',

JOSEPH F. ADA
Governor of Guam



Commonwealth Now!



SETBISION MAMPLANEHA
Bureau of Planning
GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
AGANA GUAM 96910

MAY 22 1995

Memorandum

To: The Governor

Via: Mr. Clifford Guzman, South Pacific Regional
Environmental Program, (SPREP) Point of Contact

From: Chief Planner, Bureau of Planning

Subject: SPREP Meeting with GEPA

As a result of the decision to re-establish Guam's relationship with SPREP, a meeting was called between the Bureau and Mr. Joseph C. Cruz, Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA).

In the meeting of May 10, 1995, we discussed the benefits of participating in SPREP. Before Guam pulled out of SPREP, as members, we attended various workshops and meetings, i.e. 4th Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Program Meeting, Technical Meeting on Regional Pollution and Waste Management, Sub-Regional Meeting to Identify Coastal Management Training Requirements, all paid for by SPREP, and all, in order to enhance the quality of life for the present and future generations of our island. Mr. Cruz, however, believes that SPREP and the Region benefits more from us than we do from them.

In regard to re-establishing Guam's relationship with SPREP, Mr. Cruz indicated support because of the information sharing benefits, to which the Bureau concurs.

With regard to the SPREP annual membership contribution, in 1993, GEPA paid \$11,445 in dues. We brought up the possibility of GEPA paying the dues when Guam returns to SPREP, but the Administrator informed us that due to budgetary constraints, he does not think his agency can cover the cost this fiscal year, assuming the dues still remains the same. Mr. Cruz, however, recommended that we return to SPREP effective October 1, 1995, since GEPA could make funds available to pay for the annual dues.

We then discussed the schedule of SPREP events between now and October. According to the circulars that Guam receives from SPREP, the 8th SPREP Meeting and Associated Meetings are scheduled for the first two weeks of October, all in Apia, Western Samoa.



Commonwealth Now

We also discussed the question of responsibility for the circulation of in-coming SPREP materials, and coordination for SPREP events. GEPA's position is that the Bureau should continue to be tasked with that responsibility, but would be willing to be Guam's National Representative to SPREP as was the case with the previous GEPA Administrator.

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MICHAEL J. CRUZ



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TERRITORY OF GUAM

SEP 14 1995



Dr. Vili A. Fuavao
Director
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
P.O. Box 240
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Dr. Fuavao:

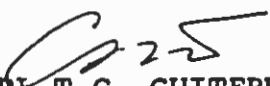
Please be informed that the Government of Guam has decided to become a participating member of SPREP. In line with this, we have received SPREP Circular 350 regarding the Eighth SPREP Meeting which will be held in Apia, Western Samoa next month, and plan to attend.

In order to participate, we understand that Annual Membership Contributions are required. Therefore, please forward an invoice for our membership contribution and any other information you deem will be of relevance to us at the earliest possible time.

I am nominating Mr. Joseph C. Cruz, Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency as primary nominee and Mr. Jesus Salas, Deputy Administrator as alternate to attend the meeting. Our attendee will be hand-carrying Guam's membership contribution.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


CARL T.C. GUTERREZ
Governor of Guam

SPREPSouth Pacific Regional
Environment Programme**PROE**Programme régional
océanien de l'environnementP.O. Box 240, APIA, Western Samoa. Tel.: (685) 21 929
Fax: (685) 20 231. E-mail: sprep@pactok.peg.apc.org

Fax no.: (671) 477 4826

To: Hon Carl T. C. Gutierrez
Governor of Guam

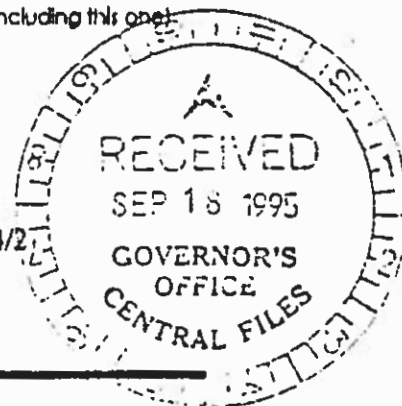
No. of pages: 2 (including this one)

From: Mr Don Stewart
Acting Director
SPREP

Date: 15 September, 1995

Subject: Guam's Participation in Eighth SPREP Meeting

Authorised by:

File: IGM 4/2
Budget:

Dear Governor

On behalf of the Director of SPREP, Dr Vili Fuavao, who is presently attending the South Pacific Forum in Papua New Guinea, I would like to thank for your faxed letter of 15 September with the welcome news that Guam will take part in this year's SPREP Meeting.

As requested, attached please find a schedule of Guam's outstanding member contributions as of today.

Working papers for the Eighth SPREP Meeting were dispatched to your office by DHL Couriers on 31 August.

We look forward to greeting Mr Cruz and Mr Salas to Apia next month. Please inform us of their travel details in due course. We have made tentative bookings for them at the Kitano Tusitala Hotel for the week of the Meeting.

Yours sincerely

Don Stewart
Acting Director

Statement of Outstanding Members Contributions
as at 15 September 1995

Member Country : Guam

	<u>USD</u>
<u>Details of outstanding contributions</u>	
1994 contributions	11,445
1995 contributions	11,446
	<u>22,890</u>
Outstanding members contributions as at 15 September 1995	<u><u>\$22,890</u></u>

THE WASHINGTON PACIFIC REPORT

THE INSIDER'S NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING THE LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS OF INTEREST INVOLVING THE INSULAR PACIFIC

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2

OCT 3 1 1995

OCTOBER 15, 1995

POTPOURRI

See pg. 6 (3P REP)

Nuclear testing in the Pacific and budgetary politics in Washington have forced many other newsworthy items off the pages of *WPR* in recent weeks. Today we catch up on a variety of other developments in and about the region.

COMMONWEALTH WATCH

Not wanting to risk rejection by applying for reinstatement, Fiji PM Sitiveni Rabuka says Fiji will wait to be asked to rejoin the Commonwealth; press reports out of Suva in August suggested Fiji already had made application to rejoin the 51-member organization and, at independence day ceremonies last week, Pres. Ratu Sir K.K.T. Mara expressed his desire to see Fiji readmitted . . . Opposition Leader Jai Ram Reddy says Rabuka's SVT Party has insulted the nation's large Indian community with its constitutional review commission submission calling for additional ethnic Fijian House seats and suggesting Fiji be declared a Christian state . . . The president of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, Justice Michael Kirby, also has been appointed to the same post in Solomon Islands, where he is expected to sit twice yearly; At his swearing in, Kirby said he looks forward to the day when Pacific island judges can work in other countries and regretted that a true Pacific court of common law had not been established to fill the vacuum left by the demise of control by Britain's Privy Council . . . Australia and New Zealand both will have new governors-general in the first quarter of next year: Sir William Deane, 64, and Michael Hardie Boys, 63, respectively; both men are high court justices; Australia anticipates its new G-G's term to be slightly truncated to make way for a new republic on January 1, 2001, headed by a president, while N.Z.'s ruling Nats were said to want a jurist who might be called upon to play a crucial role in the delicate task of possibly having to help shape a government after the country's first election under mixed-member proportional (MMP) rules next year;

Boys has ruled out ever dismissing a sitting PM, as Sir John Kerr did in 1975 when he ousted Gough Whitlam as PM . . . Australian ex-G-G Sir Zelman Cowen, a status quo supporter, says he prefers PM Paul Keating's model--which calls for a 1998 or 1999 referendum--if a republic is to be introduced; previously a staunch status-quo supporter, ex-PM Malcolm Fraser (Lib.) has said the antics of British royalty have forced him to favor republic; Opposition Leader John Howard (Lib.) wants "peoples conventions" to consider republic along with a range of other constitutional changes; ACTU Pres. Martin Ferguson sees the mild UK reaction to French testing strengthening the republic movement; Pac. Aff. Min. Gordon Bilney says UK PM John Major is due for heavy criticism at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Auckland November 10-13, while Opposition foreign affairs spokesman Alexander Downer accused London of putting its ties with France ahead of its relationship with Australia and the Commonwealth; a British spokesman acknowledged to *Reuters* "a difference of perspective among members," but questioned "whether we use the meeting as a forum to air that or say there's no point in splitting up just for the sake of having the argument." . . . A move at the NZ National Party Conference to remove a from the party doctrine a clause declaring loyalty to the Queen stirred strong reaction and was seen by some as part of a "republican" agenda of PM Jim Bolger; demonstrators at the Nats' conference say it is a practice protest to get ready for CHOGM . . . In the Aug. 31 issue of *The Financial Review*, Fred Brenchley wrote: "there's no denying the sudden new popularity of the Commonwealth in the wake of South Africa's re-entry. Cameroon and Mozambique, neither former British colonies, are believed to have applied . . . Angola and Burma are said to be in the same queue, while there is constant speculation [of] a bid for Irish membership...Around the Secretariat there is regret that the Commonwealth's clout was not brought more to bear on Suva." Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku is said to aiming in Auckland to push the group into a

more interventionist mode as a "democratic policeman." . . . Rarotonga last month hosted the 23rd Australian and Pacific Regional Conference for Commonwealth Parliamentarians . . . Tuvalu unfurled its new national flag--minus the Union Jack--on its 17th anniversary of independence from UK on October 1; the flag reportedly has met with resistance in some outer islands . . . A committee headed by Trade Minister Philip Burdon has recommended a revamped NZ honors system which would eliminate knights and dames, although, if approved by the Queen, the new orders still would be royal honors conferred by her; this New Year's honors would be the last under the current system . . . Meanwhile, back in the UK, a recent poll indicates half the adult population believes Britain's system of government is out of date, with 79% wanting to see a written constitution and a Bill of Rights to protect individual liberty; nearly a half favor "home rule" for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, against one-third opposed; A group called Charter 88, which is growing by 1,000 supporters a month, has proposed transforming the House of Lords into an elected body akin to the U.S. Senate, replacing first-past-the-post with a proportional system and decentralizing government; the Tories being opposed, any changes depend upon a return to power by Labour--which has a big lead in the polls right now--in elections which must be held by 1997 . . . And finally, though not in the Pacific, and not a separate member of the Commonwealth, the 386-year-old British island colony of Bermuda in the Atlantic, in August held a first-ever status referendum after which long-serving (13 years), pro-independence Premier Sir John Swan promised he would resign if the vote failed; he did so in the wake of the results: 25.6 % for independence and 73.7% against, in a turnout of about 58% of the 38,000 eligible voters; Said *Royal Gazette* Editor David White, "Traditionally, there are two things you don't mention in Bermuda: income tax and independence. John Swan broke the rules." With per capita income at \$18,000 per year (fifth best in the world: UN), he continued, "Why fix something that isn't broke." . . . Neither Swan nor his successor will have a seat at the Auckland CHOGM table and--by the way--nor, apparently, will Cooks PM Sir Geoffrey Henry, but that's a story for another day.

ENVIRONMENT

French nuclear testing has overwhelmed other environmental news in recent months:

■ Greenpeace was unsuccessful in its efforts to have a ban on plutonium and nuclear waste shipments placed in NPT . . . An eight-member delegation from Japan visited Pacific governments in June to explain their government's nuclear energy policies, including safety measures being taken on trans-Pacific plutonium

shipments; Japan's power industry defended the shipments, saying they will continue, but the government's Science and Technology Agency on August 25 announced a decision to cancel its Advanced Thermal Reactor project, begun in 1966, marking a reduction in plans to use plutonium in power plants . . . USEPA has agreed to let the U.S. Army burn chemical weapons at Johnston Atoll for at least one more year; the permit was due to expire in August; the Army reported in July it had destroyed successfully all of the nerve gas rockets stored at the atoll, about 25% of the total nerve gas stockpile there . . . The U.S. Army sent a team to Tuvalu in June to investigate cartons of flasks containing an unknown, noxious-fumed, yellow liquid believed to be left over from World War II . . . PNG MP Dere Wamora claims 14 containers--each with 180 drums--which sunk from a capsized vessel at the mouth of the Fly River 11 years ago are a "toxic timebomb" due to likely corrosion . . . Drums of low-level radioactive waste encased in concrete since the early 1960s were uncovered in the far north of South Australia in July; despite being labeled radioactive under Australian law, however, the radioactivity readings were said to be negligible . . . Marshalls Sen. Tony de Brum has accused the U.S. of covering up information about the effects on islanders of nuclear testing in the 1950s and 1960s, saying the U.S. Department of Energy had released documents only selectively; the Marshalls government wants more U.S. aid and compensation to deal with the health effects of the 23 tests at Bikini.

■ Two communities on Erromango Island in Vanuatu have signed an agreement preserving 3,000 hectares of forest land from logging; the government will compensate the landowners by leasing the area; a separate preserve has been established on Santo . . . Speaking in Kuala Lumpur in late June, Solomons For. Min. Danny Philip said environmental groups were being unjustly critical of Malaysian logging operations in the South Pacific; defending Solomons' right to determine its own logging level, Malaysia has offered to provide advice on sustainable logging . . . The Bougainville Transitional Government in May placed a temporary ban on exploitation of all natural resources on the island--including fishing, logging and mining--until peace is restored . . . PNG's National Alliance of NGOs has attacked the government's first timber deal signed under the 1991 revised forestry act as being too vague but the then-premier of the province which signed the deal with a Singapore company defended it; the NGO group's rep. on the forests board says the authority is suffering from lack of funding and cannot adequately police projects for compliance, noting no prosecutions ever have been undertaken to date . . . An Australian photographer opened an exhibit in Sydney in August detailing the destruction of vast forests in PNG and Solomons which he says represents the loss of

human habitats as well as those of animals; an estimated one-third of PNG's commercial forests already are gone, he says . . . An AusAID report predicts Solomon Islands, being cut at three times the sustainable level, could be logged out in eight years unless Honiara finds other sources of revenue . . . Abandoned in 1959 after 80 years as being no longer economically viable, sugar cane growing on Viti Levu wetlands again is being considered; the canegrowers association has attacked the plan as endangering the Fiji Sugar Corp.; meanwhile, Fiji is seeking World Heritage status for one of its most scenic and least disturbed rainforests on the main island . . . The Nature Conservancy has announced it has raised \$US300 million to help preserve 75 "Last Great Places" where exist some of the world's most important habitats for rare and endangered plants and animals, including four Pacific sites: "The Hawaiian Forest Challenge," the "Palau Islands Bioserve," Aronof Islands (Solomons) and Pohnpei Island (FSM) . . . Explore Micronesia, an environmentally-friendly tour program, is in the midst of a 15-day "ecotour" package which includes Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap states; a first for the region and limited to 16 people, the tour was organized by University of Oregon Professor David Rapaport, working with Continental Micronesia Airlines.

■ In response to experts' warnings that half the world's coral reefs may be destroyed within the next 20 years, an international conference in the Philippines in June concluded that the best way to save them is through management of people rather than scientific research . . . The Melanesian Environment Foundation claims marine biologists who have studied the Madang Lagoon, home to 350 fish species, are concerned that tuna cannery waste dumping plans could destroy the world's best coral reef lagoon . . . Scientists have conducted experiments near the Galapagos Islands to see if stimulated Plankton growth might absorb a significant quantity of carbon dioxide, providing a solution to global warming; meantime, a group of U.S. scientists is experimenting with soundwaves which they hope will show if the greenhouse effect is heating the ocean; because sound travels faster through warm water than cold, loudspeakers off the California coast were to emit sounds at 20-minute intervals, with sensors around New Zealand and elsewhere in the region to pick them up and relay them to measuring devices; the project had been delayed for a year by animal rights' activists who claimed the sound could interfere with whales . . . Pacific island delegations were to have sought further greenhouse gas reductions beyond 2000 in a late August round of negotiations in Geneva under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change . . . Australia has agreed to fund an additional five-years for Flinders University to monitor sea-level changes at 11 monitoring stations set up around the region . . .

According to a report by scientists published in the July issue of the journal Science, the level of concentrated methyl chloroform threatening the Earth's ozone layer has been falling since 1990; a related article in the same issue confirmed a finding first reported two years ago that CFCs almost have stopped increasing as well, trending toward a peak by 1997 rather than 2000.

POLITICS OF PACIFIC LAND & PEOPLE

■ IN FIJI, landowners near Lautoka earlier today defied a high court order by entering a factory and ordering workers out of the premises on grounds the plant's owners do not have a lease with the Native Lands Trust Board (NLTB) . . . At a late September meeting, the cabinet decided to proceed with legislation to make all state land in the country indigenously-owned; representing 10% of all land, the property would be transferred from the government lands department to the NLTB . . . At a meeting in Suva in July, the Great Council of Chiefs decided to remain active in politics but not to make a submission to the constitutional review commission after being informed that provincial delegates had made their own preparations for submissions . . . Calling for a more enlightened "Pacific Way" of rehabilitating prisoners, Home Min. Paul Manuelli at a regional meeting of prison heads said Pacific island countries, which share common values and traditions, should solve their problems in their own way . . . Then-Fijian Affairs Min. Adi Samanunu Talakuli in July warned that traditional values and relationships were being damaged by greater reliance on money and materialism . . . At a conference in Suva, Rev. Dick Avi, secretary of the Pacific Branch of the Ecumenical Council on Third World Tourism, has warned Pacific church leaders of the negative effects of tourism on island people, eroding values and demeaning subsistence economies in the process . . . Attorney General Kelemedi Bulewa says the government will review a pre-independence law which bans ancestral worship as witchcraft because on grounds it is inconsistent with the right to freedom of religion . . . Fiji's Pacifika Communications produced a video for the Beijing UN conference on women, covering the struggle Pacific women have in coping with new roles as working mothers while fulfilling traditional roles . . . PM Sitiveni Rabuka has warned the country's television company against cultural insensitivity and promoting foreign values, calling for an increase in local content and promotion of the Fijian language and culture. .

■ IN VANUATU, speaking at the opening of Port Vila's new television complex, PM Maxime Carlot Korman said he did not think television would threaten the survival of local traditions and culture, warning, however, that community and national leaders must

play their part in guarding against foreign programming influencing viewers to change their way of life . . . Waikato Univ. Lecturer Terry Crowley has completed a 10-week study on Erromango in an attempt to preserve the local Sie language--spoken only by 1,500 people--which is said threatened by growing Western influence; five or six languages originally spoken there have vanished . . . Erromango landowners in July reversed a decision to halt logging operations by a Malaysian firm, after it paid all outstanding royalties for logging rights, and agreed to maintain roads in the logging area, build a wharf and promptly pay future royalties.

■ IN SOLOMON ISLANDS, the government struggle with Pavuvu island landowners continues, with islanders now taking the Maving Brothers Logging Company to court despite Honiara having issued a permit for logging, which Greenpeace and local conservationists claim is out of control; police have had to intervene repeatedly to protect the Malaysian company's equipment, some of which has been destroyed by protesters; the logger paid the cash-starved government \$300,000 in royalties and export duties for the first two log shipments in July.

■ IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Saundau Province Governor John Tekwie has warned that the concerns of Fly River landowners affected by Ok Tedi mining must be taken seriously, lest another Bougainville develop; new PNG legislation sought by mine operator BHP--which the Opposition says it will not support--to bar landowner environmental damage claims drew protests at the Australian and PNG Washington embassies last month; BHP was said to have signed a compensation agreement with PNG on behalf of landowners in August to halt a landowner suit against the company in a Victoria Court, but the claimants denied they had had any involvement in the deal; when both sides refused mediation, the Victoria Supreme Court ruled BHP in contempt for its part in promoting the anti-claim legislation and the Australian government said it might consider a code of conduct for companies operating overseas; the ruling angered PNG, which said it would pass the bill anyway; punishment of BHP has been stayed, pending results of another appeal to have been heard last Friday . . . the cabinet has accepted a World Bank demand that the government phase out its list of businesses reserved for PNG citizens; however, anyone believing land attitudes to be a generational issue please take note: UPNG students boycotted classes and burned government vehicles as part of their July protest against World-Bank-inspired government moves to register all traditionally-owned land in the country; they were joined in their demonstration by a group of soldiers and there were coordinated protests also at Vudal Agricultural University in East New Britain and the University of Technology at Lae; Land Min. Sir Albert Kipalan subsequently withdrew the reform proposal, but

argued it would have been of long term benefit to traditional landowners; rioting resumed in the wake of rumors that PM Sir Julius Chan had reversed Kipalan's assurances; Echoing Kipalan, DPM Chris Haiveta said land reform was essential to achieving real development, but promised no changes in land laws without public consultation; spreading to the Highlands, violent protests were said to have cost two lives in Simbu Province during a police shootout; the tension did not subside until the Bank-recommended reform package was made public in late August, minus the land reforms.

■ IN NEW ZEALAND, there are fears of renewed racial tensions following last weekend's suspected arson in the burning of a 150-year-old Maori church at Otaki, north of Wellington; Maori Development Min. Wira Gardiner has warned Maori against retaliation, saying there are over 1,000 unprotected Maori sites around the country . . . Last month, non-local Maori protesters ended a six-month occupation of a historic schoolhouse at Takahue, burning the building to the ground as police moved in to evict them at the request of the local community (including Maori) . . . About 1,000 Maori who gathered at Turangi over a weekend last month called for studies on how to implement Maori self-determination and "decolonization;" . . . Maori Activist Mike Smith has warned that Maori protesters will stage large demonstrations demanding "sovereignty" at next month's CHOGM; Smith was sentenced to community service and six months of weekend detention for attempting to chop down the historically significant pine tree atop One Tree Hill in Auckland . . . Convicted of assault, Maori activist Hinewhara Harawira was sentenced to six months in jail in July for spitting at Governor-General Dame Cath Tizard at Waitangi Day celebrations in February . . . Maori protesters occupying the model Maori village in the Whakarewarewa tourist park at Rotorua withdrew in June after PM Jim Bolger issued a letter denying the government planned to change the area's status; a separate demonstration at Waikato University ended at the same time . . . Wellington police suspect Maori activists of beheading the statue of PM John Ballance (1891-93) on the grounds of Parliament in July because graffiti at the base referred to the Maori occupation of public gardens at Wanganui; another Ballance statue was beheaded earlier in the year . . . Perhaps with the next America's Cup races in mind, the Ngati Whata Tribe and a joint venture partner will spend a reported \$26 million to buy the Auckland railway station and railway yards, in order to build hotels, apartments and an entertainment on the prime waterfront site, rather than spend years in court fighting to reclaim the land as a birthright . . . Fletcher Challenge says it is talking with a confederation of North Island Maori tribes about a joint bid to privatize the state-owned forestry corporation of New Zealand; the company owns significant cutting rights but there

are pending native land claims to be resolved . . . Radical-turned-moderate Maori activist Joe Hawke has announced he will seek the Labour nomination for the Northern Maori seat in parliament next year; Speaker Peter Tapsell (Labour, Eastern Maori) and Whetu Tirikatene (Labour, Southern Maori) say they will seek re-election . . . Retiring Labour Maori MP Koro Wetere (Western seat) has criticized plans for Maori political parties under MMP, warning that the five percent threshold for representation would be more difficult to achieve than appeared . . . Representatives of major Maori organizations have met government leaders to discuss the creation of a pan-Maori organization which can present a united view on key issues . . . The Porirua City Council deferred its decision after Pacific islanders in New Zealand expressed outrage over a proposal to charge 30 percent more to bury large people; islanders say the plan discriminates against them because they tend to be larger than Europeans . . . WHO authorities have estimated that the suicide rate among young men in NZ is among the highest in the world, disproportionately so among young Maori, representing the leading cause of death for men ages 20 to 25 . . . While not backing NZ First leader Winston Peters' demand for a ban, Opposition Leader Helen Clark said Labour would oppose the government's overseas investment bill unless it tightened criteria for foreigners buying NZ land . . . Maori Queen Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangika'ahu spent 10 days in Solomon Islands in August as a guest of New Zealand High Commissioner Tia Barrett, a Maori who is also a candidate for SPC Secretary-General.

■ IN AUSTRALIA, five aboriginal women returned home with new ideas on nutrition and encouraging local businesses after a 17-day Australian Overseas Service Bureau-sponsored tour of Solomon Islands . . . Oz's Northern Land Council, an aboriginal body, has called for a total ban on kava sales, labeling it a "silent killer," the beverage originally was introduced in the Northern Territory as an alcohol substitute . . . Mining Giant CRA has offered Aborigines in northwest Queensland a \$A60 million package to compensate for the development of one of the world's largest zinc mines . . . Following desecration of Eddie Mabo's gravesite at Townsville a day after it was unveiled in June, PM Paul Keating promised Mabo's son that the government would build a national monument to his father, whose name is immortalized in the historic 1992 judicial decision recognizing native land title rights; a holiday on the date of the court action, possibly replacing the Queen's birthday if Australia becomes a republic, is also under discussion; the government also has offered to absorb the cost of reinterring Mabo on his home Murray Island in the Torres Straits . . . Although Queensland's Shoalwater Bay is home to a military training area, Defense Minister Sen. Robert Ray has not ruled out returning title to traditional Darumbal Aborigine

landowners in a leaseback arrangement.

■ IN HAWAII, the Native Hawaiian sovereignty referendum scheduled for late this year was postponed in June due to lack of funds; at the same time, the Nation of Hawaii group delivered "public notices" to four federal and state judges and other officials accusing them of unspecified "war crimes" against Hawaiians.

■ IN GUAM, 25 members of Chamoru Nation set up camp outside Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez's (D-GU) office in July to protest slow progress in completing regulations for the Chamorro Land Trust Act; Gutierrez told them to take their beef to the legislature . . . Gutierrez, himself a Chamorro, denies a group of Chamorro activists which has announced demands for independence from the U.S. has any degree of support.

REGIONAL GROUPS AND MEETINGS

■ APEC. At a senior officials meeting which closed today in Tokyo, Japan proposed a compromise--strongly opposed by Australia--to break the deadlock over agriculture, suggesting that the Osaka summit support the free-trade plan but allow a non-binding rule on sensitive sectors such as agriculture; earlier, Australia's National Farmers Federation called for the country to boycott the Osaka summit if Japan persisted in proposing agriculture be excluded from the free trade agreement; during ministerial talks at Canberra in August, Japan warned that drastic trade liberalization in the region could destroy APEC and, at a Hong Kong meeting last month, APEC officials from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China called for agriculture to be excluded from the free trade agenda . . . visa-free travel among APEC nations and uniform product standards by 1998 are items expected to be on the November 16-19 Osaka agenda; meeting in California, the APEC-created Pacific Business Forum recommended visa-free travel by 1999 and establishment of an ombudsman in each country to smooth over trade problems, among the suggestions sent to the Tokyo officials meeting . . . Japan says at Osaka it will donate an extra \$10 million to the secretariat, whose annual budget is only \$2 million . . . Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui has asked Japan to lift its ban and permit him to attend the summit . . . Australian Trade Min. Bob McMullen predicts Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad will attend the summit . . . Australian Foreign Min. Sen. Gareth Evans told European delegates at a Singapore business meeting they had nothing to fear from APEC, which he predicted would not become a warring trade bloc.

■ ASEAN. Following a September meeting of trade ministers in Brunei, NZ Trade Min. Philip Burdon welcomed a pact to boost trade and investment flows by linking the antipodes' CER with ASEAN's AFTA . . . in Australia on a goodwill mission in August, Philippines

President Fidel Ramos said Australia, along with NZ, should join with the ASEAN countries to be a "moderating force or a balancing element" in the Asia Pacific region, although he stopped short of suggesting a military alliance.

■ **INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION.** At a Bucharest meeting Friday, parliamentarians from 130 countries passed a NZ motion backed by Japan, Australia and Chile, strongly condemning French and Chinese testing; calling on the two powers to abide by a voluntary moratorium, it passed 933-65 with 356 abstentions.

■ **SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM.** Australian Transport Department official Tony Slayter will succeed William Sutherland as Forum deputy secretary-general when the latter's three-year term ends in January . . . At the Port Moresby Post-Forum Dialogue last month, France promised more aid for the region and invited Forum members to be part of the international inspection of Mururoa--an offer rejected by the Forum; echoing U.S. Assistant Sec. of State Winston Lord, French Co-operation Minister Jacques Godfrain said Paris also was considering signing the SPNFZ protocols; in a September 17 Port Moresby press conference, Lord said "the U.S....is moving quickly to come to a final decision with respect to SPNFZ..." a statement interpreted widely by the media as signaling a U.S. intention to sign the protocols . . . Japan told the Forum it would join in drafting a UN anti-nuclear test resolution . . . Six countries (Solomons, Tonga, Tuvalu, Nauru--all with formal ROC ties--and Fiji and PNG) attended the separate Post-Forum meeting with Taiwan this year, same as last year; delegates from Palau and FSM were expected but had to bow out to make plane connections; earlier, at a Suva ceremony in August, S-G Ieremia Tabai paid tribute to Taiwan for its financial contributions to the region, particularly at a time when traditional donors were withdrawing . . . USP Vice Chancellor Esekia Solofa has questioned the Forum's decision to give priority to income-earning activities such as agriculture and manufacturing over health and education . . . the Secretariat says a consortium has been formed to link it with member countries on the Internet . . . Japan told then-Forum chairman Australia in August that it would become more involved in regional policy dialogue and aid coordination, and would seek to establish a regional economic exchange center with the Forum . . . Delegates attending a recent Port Moresby Forum management workshop agreed to form an interim committee to push for establishment of a regional indigenous business association . . . Niue this month is hosting the annual meeting of Forum small island states.

■ **SPREP** last week opened its first meeting as an independent organization with a debt of \$400,000, owing to dues arrearages; Director Vili Fuavao told treaty Parties that little had been achieved toward treaty

implementation since the Apia convention came into force in 1990; the U.S. abstained from a SPREP declaration of Parties to the Convention Australia, FSM, Fiji, Nauru, NZ, PNG and Western Samoa calling on fellow Party France to stop its nuclear tests . . . at the Eighth annual meeting of SPREP members after the meeting of Parties (a two-tiered arrangement similar to the old SPC format), Guam and French Polynesia both rejoined the body following a period of withdrawal for separate political reasons; the second confab also adopted the anti-testing declaration, again presenting it to France. . . Members met in Suva in August to learn about the U.S. plans for a global environment facility fund and to identify priority areas for possible funding . . . With Niue's ratification of the Apia treaty, SPREP gained full independence from SPC in September.

■ **UNITED NATIONS.** Following France's second nuclear test, PNG PM Sir Julius Chan took to the UNGA podium to say: "I now regrettably in my capacity as chairman of the Forum announce the suspension of all Post-Forum Dialogue with France forthwith"--a decision France called "particularly unpleasant;" bilateral relations are not affected and few expect more Forum countries to follow the lead of Nauru and Kiribati in suspending diplomatic relations . . . In pre-second-test speeches, Western Samoa Amb. Naroni Slade urged the three Western powers to sign the SPNFZ protocols, FSM Ext. Aff. Secretary Asterio Takesy said testing was an ugly chronicle of willingness to gamble with the lives and homelands of millions of islanders, Fiji For. Min. Filipe Bole said it was not too late for France to halt further deterioration of relations by halting the tests and Japan DPM Yohei Kono, deploring testing by "certain countries," renewed a proposal to host the CTB Treaty signing next year; after the October 1 test, Japan said it would send a special envoy to New York to boost efforts on passage of the anti-nuclear resolution . . . reacting to Australian For. Min. Sen. Gareth Evans's address, the deputy French ambassador scoffed, saying "one country that has...stated it is our neighbor in the Pacific is really further away from French Polynesia than New York is from Paris." . . . At a New York press conference, French Defense Minister Charles Millon reiterated his government's plan to cancel one nuclear test if France is able to gather enough data from early tests . . . Not always on defense, France joined numerous other wealthy states as For. Min. Hervé de Charette took to the UNGA podium to chastise the U.S. (not by name) for not paying the \$1 billion it owes in back dues, which constitutes a third of the UN's debt; with regard to the tests, de Charette--speaking four days before the second blast--said: "There were some who imagined and others who wished to make believe we might reconsider such a decision [but] this will not happen." . . . NZ For. Min. Don McKinnon called his private meeting with de Charette in NY "pretty tense and pretty forceful."