

Confidential filing

Meetings of the South Pacific Forum in Tarawa.

FOREIGN
POLICY

July 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
28-7-80							
30-7-80							
31-7-80							
11-4-84							
18-4-84							
24-4-84							
PREM				19/1236			

CC OPS
Master

CC 720

✓

SUBJECT



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 April 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No T64187

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of 10 April informing me of the establishment of a Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from four members of the South Pacific Forum, to examine various implications of establishing a Single Regional Organisation in the Pacific, and for the summary of the Committee's recent activities. It was very helpful to have this account.

We will be pleased to receive the Committee in London and welcome the opportunity of having discussions with them. If they wish also to visit the Pitcairn Islands we will certainly do what we can to facilitate their visit. I look forward to hearing more about the timing of any visits proposed.

As you say, the United Kingdom are aware of the consideration that has been given in recent years to the question of the most appropriate regional organisation for the South Pacific. We have maintained a close interest in the way thinking has developed and will look forward to having a full exchange of views with the Committee when they come to London.

In addition, I was most grateful for your offer to keep me informed of any developments which may occur as a result of the Four-Nation Ministerial Committee's consultations and meetings.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Hon. R.J.L. Hawke, AC, MP.

JL

cc/jk



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 April 1984

GR: pre type to
— PM's sigD
19/4

Jon Teh.

South Pacific Regional Organisations

In your letter of 11 April you asked for advice on and a draft reply to the letter the Prime Minister has received from the Prime Minister of Australia about moves to establish a Single Regional Organisation in the South Pacific.

The Pacific debate over the SRO concept has been going on for some time. It concerns the possible merger of the South Pacific Forum, a body representing the independent states in the South Pacific with a predominantly political bias, and the South Pacific Commission whose membership incorporates the metropolitan powers (France, UK, USA) as well as the independent states and dependent territories, and whose function is to provide training and assistance in the social economic and cultural fields. There is inevitably a certain amount of duplication in the activities of the two organisations and there has been pressure from some of the recently independent countries led by Papua New Guinea to establish a single regional organisation. There is some opposition to the idea particularly from the smaller Polynesian states who fear Melanesian domination and that there will be no room in a single organisation for the metropolitan powers whose stabilising presence and aid is still seen as being necessary. As far as we are concerned the resolution of this matter is primarily for the regional members to decide; we would support any moves which reflected the wishes and views of all the Pacific states concerned. We are nevertheless pleased that in its early deliberations the Committee is making provision for the continued full participation of the metropolitan powers.

/As the

CONFIDENTIAL



As the concept of a Single Regional Organisation has a bearing on our overall policy in the Pacific, we welcome the decision of the Committee to visit London (we understand that this will not now be until after the Forum meeting in August) and to having discussions with its members.

/ I enclose a draft reply.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone', written in a cursive style.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

The Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

The Hon R J L Hawke AC MP
 Prime Minister of the Commonwealth
 of Australia

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

/having

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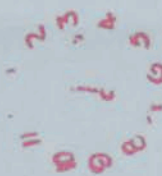
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Foreign Bling : South Pacific Forum
July '80

1984

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THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

ccfy
AUSTRALIA HOUSE
STRAND
LONDON WC2B 4LA
01-438 8000

17 April 1984

DMS
12/4

Dear Mr Coles,

The attached envelope contains the original letter from Mr Hawke to Mrs Thatcher on the subject of a Single Regional Organisation in the South Pacific, the text of which was conveyed in a letter from the High Commissioner on 10 April 1984.

Yours sincerely,

(Patricia Paton)

Mr A.J. Coles
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1



ECL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 April 1984

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Prime Minister of Australia. I shall be grateful for advice and a draft reply.

BF

J. COLES

Peter Ricketts Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

6



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 April 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 10 April containing the text of a message to Mrs Thatcher from the Prime Minister of Australia.

A. J. COLES

His Excellency Mr A R Parsons

VB

020

cc Master
Ops

CONFIDENTIAL

cc R



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

AUSTRALIA HOUSE
STRAND
LONDON WC2B 4LA
01-438 8000

SUBJECT

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

PRIME MINISTER

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PERSONAL MESSAGE

10 April 1984

SERIAL No. TS 7/84

Dear Prime Minister,

Mr Hawke has asked me to pass to you the following text of a letter concerning the question of the most appropriate form of South Pacific regional organisations:

Begins:

Dear Prime Minister,

You will be aware from your Government's membership and participation in the work of the South Pacific Commission, and that of your Pacific Territory, that the question of the most appropriate form of South Pacific regional organisations has been under consideration for some time. Australia has followed the issue closely as a member of the South Pacific Commission and of the South Pacific Forum, the organisation which comprises the Heads of Government of the independent and self-governing countries of the South Pacific.

At the Fourteenth South Pacific Forum Meeting in Canberra last August a Resolution was passed calling for investigation of the concept of a Single Regional Organisation, in the expectation that such a body would be more cost effective in the long term than existing arrangements. Member countries were agreed that greater emphasis should be given to establishing in the region a new and lasting relationship among developed and developing countries and territories to promote regional development. The terms of the Resolution specifically recognised the desirability of ensuring the continued participation of those outside the region, who have to date played an important role in assisting regional development, on the basis of mutual respect and constructive partnership among the Forum countries, the Island Territories and the metropolitan countries.

To undertake consideration of the political, legal, constitutional, and financial implications of a Single Regional Organisation, the Forum decided to appoint a Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from four

member countries. It was intended that this Committee should undertake consultations with concerned parties, including the Governments of France, the United States and the United Kingdom, to inform them of the Forum's views and to ascertain their views on participation in a single Regional Organisation. In my current capacity as Chairman of the Forum, I was requested to convey to your Government the Forum's decision and the wish of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to undertake consultations with your Government.

I am advised that the Four-Nation Ministerial Committee, composed of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga, has begun its work of considering the issues entailed in a single regional organisation. The first meeting, which was held in Port Moresby from 19-20 March, passed very successfully and will be followed by a further meeting scheduled for Wellington on 9-10 April. Apart from informing you of these developments, it is my hope as Chairman of the Forum that your Government will be agreeable to receiving the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consultations, as well as facilitating visits by the Committee to your Pacific Territory in connection with its mission.

Yours sincerely,

(R.J.L. Hawke)

Ends:

You may also wish to know that Mr Hawke has written in similar terms to the Heads of Government of France and the United States.

The original copy of this letter will be sent on as soon as it is received.

Yours sincerely

Parsons

A.R. PARSONS

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister of Great Britain
LONDON SW1

SUBJECT

cc OPS
MASTER



T 57/84

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

SERIAL No. T 57/84

11 APR 1984

Dean Mackay,

You will be aware from your Government's membership and participation in the work of the South Pacific Commission, and that of your Pacific territory, that the question of the most appropriate form of South Pacific regional organisations has been under consideration for some time. Australia has followed the issue closely as a member of the South Pacific Commission and of the South Pacific Forum, the organisation which comprises the Heads of Government of the independent and self-governing countries of the South Pacific.

At the Fourteenth South Pacific Forum meeting in Canberra last August a resolution was passed calling for investigation of the concept of a Single Regional Organisation, in the expectation that such a body would be more cost effective in the long term than existing arrangements. Member countries were agreed that greater emphasis should be given to establishing in the region a new and lasting relationship among developed and developing countries and territories to promote regional development. The terms of the resolution specifically recognised the desirability of ensuring the continued participation of those developed countries, including those outside the region, who have to date played an important role in assisting regional development, on the basis of mutual respect and constructive partnership among the Forum countries, the island territories and the metropolitan countries.

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Yours sincerely

Bob Muldoon

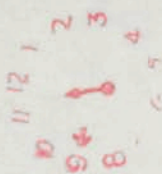
The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister of Great Britain
LONDON SW1
UNITED KINGDOM

Foreign Policy

July 80

South Pacific Forum

17 APR 1984



file

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For Paul

31 July 1980

Thank you for your letter of 29 July
and for the enclosed original of Mr. Fraser's
letter of 18 July to the Prime Minister.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll, A.C., C.B.E.

GC



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION · LONDON

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

29 July 1980

Dear Mr Alexander,

*Confirmation
copy*

I refer to my letter of 18 July 1980, enclosing the text of a letter dated 18 July from the Australian Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, to your Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher.

I now enclose the original of Mr Fraser's letter.

Yours sincerely
J. Plimsoll

(J. Plimsoll)

Mr Michael Alexander,
Private Secretary (Overseas Affairs)
to the Prime Minister,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, SW1.

SUBJECT

CC FCO 28/7 BK

T152/70



10 DOWNING STREET

Foreign Policy
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T152/80

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 July 1980

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your message of 18 July. It was very helpful and timely to have your views on the South Pacific Forum meeting - and we were also grateful for the briefing that your officials gave to Mr. Rose in Tarawa, which enabled him to report on the meeting more fully than would otherwise have been the case.

I will not go into the New Hebrides situation in this letter. Your concern is understood and appreciated. I know you will welcome the fact that we have been able to stick to the date of 30 July for independence and the re-occupation of Santo Island by British and French troops on 24 July. But there are still matters to be resolved in the interest of a peaceful future for the people of the islands. I have asked Peter Blaker, the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who as you know will be representing the British Government at the independence celebrations, to come back via Canberra and to make himself available there to brief you, or any of your colleagues, should you so wish.

Peter Blaker would also be interested to hear the Australian Government's views on the broader aspects of our joint interests in the Pacific region, which you outline in your letter. As you say, Australia and the UK share considerable interests in the stability and progress of this important area. I was interested

/ to note your

OWP

to note your suggestion at the South Pacific Forum in Tarawa that the 1982 regional Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting might take place somewhere in the Pacific: and I know that you have specifically championed Pacific interests in the Commonwealth and other fora. We have also watched with interest the discussions on possible wider cooperation between Pacific countries themselves, in which Australia and you personally have taken an important part.

You mentioned in your letter the American proposal to store nuclear waste on the island of Palmyra. The acceptability of this particular proposal is a matter for the United States and South Pacific Governments. But we recognise that there could be non-proliferation advantages in having spent fuel from certain countries, which we do not wish to see develop national reprocessing facilities, stored under multinational arrangements. In general I agree that it would not be in western interests to allow nuclear questions in the Pacific to become contentious and to spoil our good relations with the Pacific countries.

Britain's role in the Pacific is of course less direct than your own, and our priorities, like yours, have to reflect our perceptions of our geographical and strategic position. Our aid programme to the area this year amounts to £27 million. We are members of the South Pacific Commission and have a wide spread of diplomatic representation in the area. These are evidence of our continuing interest in the region.

Yours sincerely,

MT

The Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser, CH, MP.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Type for signature.

28 July 1980

Dear Michael,

I attach a draft reply to Mr Fraser's message of 18 July to the Prime Minister (your letter of even date refers). If you return the text as approved by the Prime Minister to us we shall telegraph it to Canberra for delivery by Sir J Mason (we shall of course send a courtesy copy to Sir J Plimsoll).

The Prime Minister may consider that it would be a good idea if Mr Blaker handed over the signed original; in this case could you send it to me by close of play on 29 July.

Mr Blaker may also seek to deliver a message of political support to the Australians for URENCO's bid to take part in Australian uranium enrichment. The Department of Energy are writing separately about this.

Mr Fraser's suggestion about the next CHOGRM was made in the South Pacific Forum communique (copy attached).

Yours ever
Rodric Lyne

(R M J Lyne)

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

28 JUL 1980



DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO: The Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser CH MP
 Parliament House
 Canberra

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

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/Peter Blaker

Enclosures—flag(s).....

- 2 -

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Foreign Office
Lb Lb
B/F 25/7/80

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 July 1980

I enclose a copy of a message to the Prime Minister from the Prime Minister of Australia about this week's meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Tarawa.

I should be grateful if you could let me have in due course the text of a reply which the Prime Minister might send to Mr. Fraser.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TR



File 16

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 July 1980

I am replying on the Prime Minister's behalf to your letter to her of 18 July enclosing a message from the Prime Minister of Australia. I have, of course, brought Mr. Fraser's message to the Prime Minister's immediate attention.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll, A.C.

CONFIDENTIAL



THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION · LONDON

18 July, 1980.

Dear Prime Minister,

I have been asked by the Prime Minister of Australia to pass to you the attached message from him.

It arrived by telegram and the original will be sent to you as soon as it is received.

Yours sincerely,
J. Plimsoll
(J. Plimsoll)

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. 1145/80

CONFIDENTIAL



T145/80 (2)

Prime Minister

Ans

TEXT OF MESSAGE DATED 18 JULY, 1980 FROM
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA TO
THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.
PRIME MINISTER

ms - 4 Ans

My dear Prime Minister,

In view of the importance of the issues raised, I am sending you this brief personal message setting out some of the first-hand impressions I gained at this week's meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Tarawa.

This annual meeting of Heads of Government in the Pacific has assumed a new importance in the past few years. The Island countries of the South Pacific are speaking more and more with one voice on a range of world issues in such fora as the United Nations, and in particular in the Forum, their principal regional meeting.

Discussions at the Forum meetings naturally focus most closely on issues of regional importance. Of the issues discussed this year, two were of particular significance in a broader international context. One of them, the emergence of the New Hebrides as a new and independent country, is of particular interest to Britain as a joint administering power. Another, the storage of nuclear waste outside home countries, is an issue to which we shall all have to give greater attention.

The West now enjoys a generally friendly and constructive relationship with the South Pacific countries. We must recognise the value of this relationship and ensure that it is not lost simply because of failure to recognise its importance in the international scheme of things. We should seek to build on the present foundation of good relations.

What struck me most forcibly in Tarawa was how strongly the Island leaders feel about their progress towards attaining self-government and independence. These feelings will have to be given proper weight if we are to succeed in avoiding serious unrest in the South Pacific in the years immediately ahead.

Uppermost in everyone's minds at Tarawa was the question of the New Hebrides. There was complete support for Father Walter Lini, whom I met for the first time. He made a very favourable impression on me at the Conference with his articulate and moderate presentation of his views. He drew a strong and even emotional response from the other leaders in terms of commitment to the New Hebrides achieving independence as a united country on 30 July. I sensed an equally strong commitment to the continuing processes of self-government and independence elsewhere in the Pacific, even though no resolutions were put forward on other Island territories.

.... / 2

CONFIDENTIAL

On nuclear matters only one actual resolution emerged - on an American proposal to store nuclear waste on the island of Palmyra - but more generally there was a strongly expressed feeling that the time had come when the Pacific should no longer be made use of in the nuclear context. This feeling could likewise have important political consequences for us all in the wider international sphere, if other powers - in particular the Soviet Union and its associates - sought to exploit it.

Even though Australia borders the Pacific we have perhaps been slower than we should to recognise its importance and significance. In recent years we have sought to make up lost ground in various ways including greatly increased aid and by increased involvement in the area at Ministerial and Prime Ministerial level. In terms of our geographical location, and of our direct interest, this makes obvious sense. But what may not be so obvious, and that prompts me to write to you now, is that in addition to your own direct interests in the Pacific region we and you share a broader interest in stability in this area as a whole. This interest will only be served effectively if our Governments at the highest levels are responsive to the views and aspirations of the South Pacific island countries.

Yours sincerely,

(Malcolm Fraser)

III

CONDINGIOL

18 JUL 1980





T 145/80

PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

27 JUL 1980

Mr. Lee Tung

In view of the importance of the issues raised, I am sending you this brief personal message setting out some of the first-hand impressions I gained at this week's meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Tarawa.

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My best wishes
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister of Great Britain,
LONDON.

ACTION

MR SHROFF

MR D. LAWSON

UNCLASS 17 JULY 80

15313

FROM WELLINGTON

TO SUVA 2041 CANBERRA 2303 NUKUALOFA 1195 APIA 1534
RAROTONGA 778 NEW YORK PR 628 NIUE 329 HONIARA 422
PORT MORESBY 910 LONDON 5535 PARIS 1500 NOUMEA 138
WASHINGTON 2768 -ALL PRIORITY-

FORUM: COMMUNIQUE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED ON 14 JULY BY SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM:

"THE ELEVENTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM WAS HELD IN TARAWA, REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI. ON 14-15 JULY. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FROM AUSTRALIA. COOK ISLANDS. FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (AS AN OBSERVER). FIJI. KIRIBATI. NAURU. NEW HEBRIDES. NEW ZEALAND. NIUE. PAPUA NEW GUINEA. SOLOMON ISLANDS. TONGA AND TUVALU. WHILE WESTERN SAMOA WAS REPRESENTED BY A SENIOR MINISTER. THE BERETITENTI OF KIRIBATI. THE HON. IEREMIA TABIA. CHAIRED THE MEETING. WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE MANEABA NI MAUNGATABU (HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY).

THE MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

(A) FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

THE FORUM WELCOMED THE ADMISSION TO THE FORUM. IN AN OBSERVER CAPACITY. THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA. NOTING THAT FOLLOWING A DECISION OF THE TENTH FORUM IN HONIARA LAST YEAR. THE FSM HAD ALREADY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE QUESTION OF FULL MEMBERSHIP FOR THE FSM WAS RESERVED FOR REVIEW AT A LATER STAGE

(B) NEW HEBRIDES

(TEXT TO THIS SECTION IN OUR 2279 TO CANBERRA)

(FCO HAS TEXT)

UNCLASS PAGE 4/2041 ETC

RECALLING THE RESOLUTION OF THE TENTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM REGARDING THE STORAGE IN THE PACIFIC OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL:

NOTING THAT THE U.S.A. HAS INVITED OTHER COUNTRIES TO JOIN IN EXAMINING A NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE PROJECT ON PALMYRA:

BELIEVING THAT ANY PROPOSAL FOR THE STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE OUTSIDE HOME COUNTRIES IS A MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND SHOULD BE EXAMINED CLOSELY BY ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED:

NOTES THE ASSURANCE BY THE UNITED STATES THAT THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT BE AN ECOLOGICAL THREAT TO THE PACIFIC WATERS BUT URGES THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL BE DEFERRED PENDING FURTHER DETAILED TECHNICAL EXAMINATION AND REPORT:

CONDEMNS ANY ACTION WHICH REPRESENTS FURTHER EXPLOITATION OF THE PACIFIC FOR NUCLEAR PURPOSES IN WAYS WHICH DISADVANTAGE THE PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC:

REQUESTS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ELEVENTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM TO CONVEY THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

SHIPPING

THE FORUM CONSIDERED IN DETAIL THE SITUATION OF THE PACIFIC FORUM LINE, NOTING THAT FINANCIAL, MANAGERIAL AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE LINE WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN DETAIL AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE REGIONAL SHIPPING COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN AUGUST IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ON THE SITING OF THE LINE'S FINANCIAL OPERATIONS. THE FORUM REVIEWED THE OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PFL AND NOTED THAT THESE WOULD BE UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETING.

REGIONAL FISHERIES

THE FORUM RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR FORUM MEMBERS TO CLEARLY ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RESEARCH AND IT. THEREFORE, DIRECTED THE FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY TO CONVENE AT AN EARLY STAGE A MEETING OF OFFICIALS AND APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS, IDENTIFY AND PLAN A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE REGION SUITED TO THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS.

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REGIONAL NEWS EXCHANGE SCHEME

THE FORUM ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE A PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL NEWS EXCHANGE SCHEME AND AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED ALONG WITH A PROPOSAL BY THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FOR POSSIBLE EEC FUNDING.

VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FORUM WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW HEBRIDES (VANUATU).''

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THE FORUM CONSIDERED THE TEXT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT (SPARTECA) TOGETHER WITH ITS PROVISIONS, WHICH PROVIDES PROGRESSIVELY FOR UNRESTRICTED AND NON-RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO THE MARKETS OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND FOR A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS FROM FORUM ISLAND COUNTRIES. THE SPARTECA AGREEMENT WAS OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AND WAS SIGNED, SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION, BY THE FORUM DELEGATIONS' HEADS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: AUSTRALIA, COOK ISLANDS, KIRIBATI, NEW ZEALAND, NIUE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TONGA, TUVALU AND WESTERN SAMOA. THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AFFIRMED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT, BUT, FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REASONS, WAS UNABLE TO SIGN AS YET. FIJI DECIDED NOT TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT AT THIS STAGE UNTIL ITS CONCERNS ON CERTAIN ITEMS IN THE SCHEDULES AND IN PARTICULAR CITRUS JUICE AND TIMBER EXPORTS WERE ACCOMMODATED. THE PRESIDENT OF NAURU INDICATED THAT NAURU WOULD SIGN THE AGREEMENT ONLY IF NAURU WAS INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF SMALLER ISLAND COUNTRIES IN ARTICLE I OF THE AGREEMENT.

REVIEW OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:

REPORT OF JOINT SPEC/SPC COMMITTEE

THE FORUM RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE FORUM AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE THE SPEC AND GAMBERRA AGREEMENTS AND TO EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH TO ENSURE THE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF TOTAL HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE REGION. THE FORUM NOTED THE CENTRAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT A SINGLE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL INSTITUTION SHOULD BE CREATED IN THE PACIFIC BY A MERGER AND REORGANISATION OF SPC AND SPEC, AND CONCLUDED THAT THERE WERE ASPECTS OF THIS RECOMMENDATION WHICH REQUIRED FURTHER STUDY. THE FORUM WAS OF THE OPINION THAT IN THE COURSE OF TIME THE QUESTION SHOULD RESOLVE ITSELF AS MORE PACIFIC COUNTRIES JOINED THE FORUM.

PACIFIC ISLAND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND:

THE FORUM TOOK NOTE OF A PAPER PRESENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI CONCERNING A PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND AGREED THAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER STUDY, IN CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SPEC SECRETARIAT AND THE CONFERENCE ON PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPMENT, BASED AT THE EAST-WEST CENTRE.

COMMONWEALTH MATTERS:

THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER DREW ATTENTION TO THE FORTHCOMING CHOGRM MEETING IN NEW DELHI. HE FELT THAT IN ORDER TO DRAW MORE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HOST THE NEXT MEETING OF CHOGRM IN 1982 SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC.

ENERGY MATTERS:

(A) FORUM APPROACH TO OPEC

THE FORUM CONSIDERED THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE SPEC SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR A TOP-LEVEL DELEGATION OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEMBERS TO APPROACH THE OPEC STATES WITH A VIEW TO SEEKING SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT AND FOR CONCESSIONS FOR THE FORUM MEMBERS IN THE FIELD OF THE SUPPLY AND PRICING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN EARLIER DIRECTIVE FROM THE REGIONAL CIVIL AVIATION COUNCIL. THE FORUM NOTED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE METHOD OF OBJECTIVES OF SUCH AN APPROACH, AND NOTING THE DESIRABILITY OF BRINGING TO THE ATTENTION OF OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY FORUM ISLAND COUNTRIES THROUGH FUEL IMPORT COST INCREASES, AGREED THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN APPROACH TO OPEC STATES SHOULD BE PREPARED BY SPEC IN CONSULTATION WITH FORUM MEMBERS, BEFORE A DECISION WAS TAKEN WHETHER OR NOT TO PROCEED WITH AN APPROACH.

(B) NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PREMIER OF THE COOK ISLANDS, THE FORUM CONSIDERED THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE IN THE PACIFIC AND ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL
THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PREMIER OF THE COOK ISLANDS. THE
FORUM CONSIDERED THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE
IN THE PACIFIC AND ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

RECALLING THE RESOLUTION OF THE TENTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM
REGARDING THE STORAGE IN THE PACIFIC OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL:
NOTING THAT THE U.S.A. HAS INVITED OTHER COUNTRIES TO JOIN IN
EXAMINING A NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE PROJECT ON PALMYRA:
RELIEVING THAT ANY PROPOSAL FOR THE STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE
OUTSIDE HOME COUNTRIES IS A MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND
SHOULD BE EXAMINED CLOSELY BY ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED:
NOTES THE ASSURANCE BY THE UNITED STATES THAT THIS PROJECT
WOULD NOT BE AN ECOLOGICAL THREAT TO THE PACIFIC WATERS BUT
URGES THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL BE DEFERRED PENDING
FURTHER DETAILED TECHNICAL EXAMINATION AND REPORT:
CONDEMNS ANY ACTION WHICH REPRESENTS FURTHER EXPLOITATION
OF THE PACIFIC FOR NUCLEAR PURPOSES IN WAYS WHICH DISADVANTAGE
THE PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC:
REQUESTS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ELEVENTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM
TO CONVEY THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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