

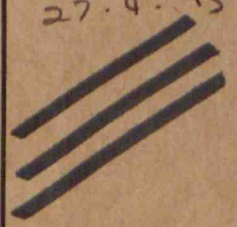
Confidential filing

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER
OF VANUATU, KATHER LINI TO THE
UK IN NOVEMBER 1981 AND
SUBSEQUENT VISITS.

VANUATU

SEPT 1981

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
23.9.87		<p>File Series closed - See Vanuatu : Relations</p> <p>PREM 19/2002</p>					
30.10.87							
23.11.87							
7.2.87							
22.6.83							
4.7.83							
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3.2.86							
18.2.86							
24.2.86							
27.4.93							



SUBJECT
cc Master

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10 DOWNING STREET

24 February 1986

From the Private Secretary

Dear Robert,

Prime Minister's Meeting with the Prime Minister of Vanuatu

The Prime Minister had a meeting with Father Walter Lini this morning lasting some half an hour. Father Lini was accompanied by two officials. Dr. Wilson was also present.

Conference of Francophone Heads of Government

The Prime Minister enquired about the Conference of Francophone Heads of Government in Paris which Father Lini had just attended. Father Lini said it had gone quite well and there would probably be another one within two years or so. Not surprisingly, the meeting had not been as well organised as a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting and there was no Secretariat. It would probably take two or three meetings before one could be certain whether any sort of lasting grouping would emerge. Father Lini added that he was unable to speak French but had not dared to speak English at the Conference. He had therefore delivered his address in pidgin.

The Prime Minister suggested that the Conference might have been a good occasion for Father Lini to put forward some of the strong views he held about French activities in the Pacific. Father Lini said that France seemed determined to preserve its position in the area. He was concerned by reports that the United Kingdom, on the other hand, was thinking of reducing its presence.

United Kingdom Links with the South Pacific

The Prime Minister said that the United Kingdom had no intention at all of pulling out of the Pacific. Indeed in the light of the attitude taken by New Zealand towards visits by nuclear powered ships or ships carrying nuclear

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weapons, it was more than ever important for the UK to preserve a widespread presence in the area. We had traditionally gone to considerable lengths to help the South Pacific countries, for instance the special arrangements made for sugar from Fiji. She thought that Vanuatu had good reason to be thankful for the United Kingdom's continuing interest. Surely it was preferable to being left to the French.

The Prime Minister said that we felt some concern about Soviet interest in obtaining a fisheries agreement with Vanuatu. It was a common Soviet tactic to offer inducements to small island states with the longer term aim of securing shore facilities for their naval forces.

Aid

Father Lini said that he also wanted to be reassured that the United Kingdom would continue its economic aid to Vanuatu. There had been no budgetary aid for the current year though, because of the hurricanes, it might be made available again in the following year. The Prime Minister said that she understood that there was some £2 million left from Vanuatu's independence settlement which could be used for various projects. She understood that Father Lini would be seeing Mr. Raison and she hoped they would have a thorough discussion of aid commitments and plans. She had heard that there was a particular project for codifying and printing the laws of Vanuatu. It seemed reasonable for us to offer help with this.

Father Lini said that he would like to work out with the ODA a programme of aid to various sectors with a ceiling for each. Some further thought was needed on this and he would come back to HMG. Meanwhile he had a number of particular requests to make. The first concerned the time it took to get clearance for individual aid projects. He hoped that procedures could be speeded up. Secondly, and linked to this, he hoped that more aid could be made available through the Small Project Fund which Vanuatu itself could administer. This cut out delays. It could be used through Vanuatu's Development Bank for loans to small farmers. Thirdly he wished to mention the priority being given to education, with the building of eleven new secondary schools. Encouragement was also being given to bilingualism.

The Prime Minister said that she had some sympathy with Father Lini's requests. He should discuss them in more detail with Mr. Raison. She thought that he would be wise to get as much as possible sorted out during his current visit to the United Kingdom.

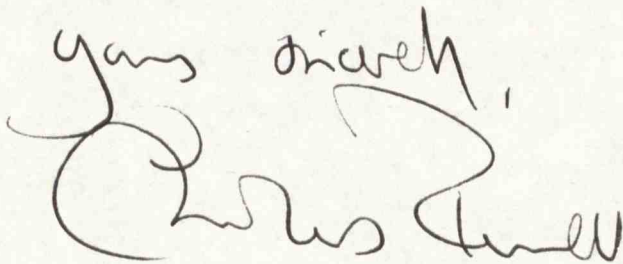
Vanuatu's Economy

In response to the Prime Minister's invitation, Father Lini explained the main features of Vanuatu's economic development. The main problems at present were the sharp fall in the copra price, the damage done by hurricanes particularly to the cocoa and coconut crops and the steep decline - some 34% since 1984 - in tourism (he ascribed the latter partly to the fact that people confused Vanuatu with New Caledonia). As a result of these developments Vanuatu might have to dip into its reserves for the first time since independence. Priority was being given in the economy to agriculture and, increasingly to fishing. There were plans to diversify beef exports particularly to Papua New Guinea, and further to develop local fishing.

Falklands

The Prime Minister thanked Father Lini for Vanuatu's regular abstention on the Falklands issue at the United Nations.

I am copying this letter to Martin Dinham (Overseas Development Administration).

Yours sincerely,


(C.D. Powell)

Robert Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER OF VANUATU

You are to see Father Lini for half an hour on Monday. Your last meeting was at CHOGM in the Bahamas.

You might ask him about the Conference of French Speaking Governments which he has just attended in Paris.

He needs to be reassured about our continuing presence in the Pacific. We have no plans to diminish this, and are maintaining a large bilateral aid programme in the area (£19 million last year).

He will no doubt try to extract some more aid. Actually, there is still quite a lot unspent from the Independence settlement, so we don't see a need for more. It is a subject which he should discuss further with Mr. Raison whom he is also seeing. We do, however, sympathise with a request for help with codification and printing of the laws of Vanuatu.

You will want to warn him to sup with a long spoon with the Russians who are seeking a fisheries agreement. There are obviously economic attractions; but their motives are far from pure, particularly over shore access.

He is a strong anti-nuclear campaigner and may ask you to support efforts to stop French nuclear tests and support a South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. As a nuclear weapon state, we understand reasons for nuclear testing. The answer is an adequately verifiable comprehensive test ban. You have not yet reached a view on proposals for a nuclear free zone in the South Pacific. But you have a firm position on nuclear ships's visits.

/You will

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- 2 -

You will want to thank him for Vanuatu's repeated abstentions on Falklands resolutions.

He may raise New Caledonia on which he takes an extreme line in support of the indigenous Kanak population. It is none of our business, though any solution should patently guarantee the rights and interests of all races.

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

21 February 1986

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cc Pd
BU



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 February 1986

Dear Charles,

Call on the Prime Minister by Father Walter Lini,
Minister of Vanuatu: 24 February

Your letter of 3 February confirmed that the Prime Minister had agreed to receive Father Lini for a short courtesy call on Monday 24 February at 11am.

//
I attach briefing for this call and a biographical note on Father Lini. Father Lini is likely to seek an indication from the Prime Minister of Britain's continued interest in and commitment to Vanuatu and the South Pacific. He will have spent the previous week in Paris at a Francophone Summit. The French Government will no doubt have made a special effort to look after him, as Vanuatu is the most vociferous opponent of French policies in the Pacific.

One of Father Lini's main interests in coming to London will be to discuss aid and to press for more. He is seeing Mr Raison on 25 February: detailed discussions can be left for this meeting.

We have already agreed that David Wilson will attend.

Yours ever,

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF VANUATU

Our Objectives

- (a) Reassure Father Lini that Britain remains fully committed to South Pacific.
- (b) Reaffirm Britain's aid commitment to Vanuatu and South Pacific generally but avoid making any new pledge of capital or budgetary aid.
- (c) Register concern over increased Soviet profile in region and possible Soviet fisheries agreement with Vanuatu.
- (d) Thank Father Lini for past abstentions on Falklands at UN (absent 1985).
- (e) Encourage Vanuatu to take a moderate line on New Caledonia and not go beyond South Pacific Forum Communique of August 1985.

Arguments

- (a) Rumours that Britain is withdrawing from South Pacific have no basis in fact. Large ongoing bilateral aid programme, among largest in per capita terms, plus important contribution to multilateral agencies. Second only to Australia in number of diplomatic missions in the area (6). Membership of South Pacific Commission.
- (b) We maintain a substantial technical co-operation programme in Vanuatu - particularly manpower and training. (But do not propose to make new pledges of substantial capital aid on pattern given on independence.)
- (c) Appreciate economic attraction of a fisheries deal with the Russians. Their motives are not always pure, especially over shore access.

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/ (d)



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- (d) France is committed to an act of self-determination by end of 1987.

Highly desirable that course adopted has support of all communities in New Caledonia. The South Pacific Forum Communique expresses support for this principle.

His Objectives

- (a) To seek assurance of Britain's continuing financial and developmental commitment to Vanuatu in particular, and South Pacific in general.
- (b) To get i) commitment for additional budgetary aid ("Special Financial Assistance");
ii) a new pledge of capital aid; and
iii) assistance for revision of laws of Vanuatu (a pet scheme of Father Lini's).
- (c) To seek British support for efforts to stop French nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoll.
- (d) To ask Britain's attitude to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, and whether Britain will ratify Treaty's Protocols.
- (e) To seek British support for moves (such as reinscription at UN) designed to increase pressure on France to speed up process of decolonisation, especially if the Right wins French elections in March. To win support for argument that Melanesian population alone should decide destiny of New Caledonia.

Your Response

- (a) Confirm no question of Britain withdrawing from Pacific. Once Independence Financial Settlement fully drawn down, substantial technical assistance and manpower programmes will continue.

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/(b)



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(b) (i) Budgetary aid review by officials in 1985 indicated no payment needed in 1986. We will honour our budgetary aid agreement to provide aid under tapering arrangements until 1988, if need can be demonstrated.

(ii) £1.9 million still uncommitted from independence settlement grant. When this fully committed pleased to consider occasional capital projects of particular importance to your Government. Not appropriate to enter into new independence-type commitments.

→ (iii) Sympathetic to request. *[for revision to laws of Vanuatu]*
Understand you will meet Mr Raison tomorrow for substantive discussions on aid. Hope you are reassured of our commitment to Vanuatu.

(c) As nuclear weapon state dependent for its security on a nuclear deterrent, Britain understands reasons for French testing. But we recognise the strong concern about regional testing. Our policy to seek basis for adequately verifiable Comprehensive Test Ban to which all countries will adhere. At Geneva Conference on Disarmament we are working towards total ban, by seeking progress on difficult technical questions of verification.

(d) Generally welcome nuclear free zones which contribute to regional security, to non-proliferation and to disarmament.
UK ratification - Protocols still in draft so obviously cannot make any commitment before seeing them in final form and studying their full implications.

Background

1. Prime Minister last met Father Lini at Nassau CHOGM.
2. Article in "The Times" in October 1984 alleged a number of British missions in South Pacific scheduled for closure, including our post in Vila. Not true. Britain not pulling out. Continued interest demonstrated by second-largest (to Australia) diplomatic presence in region, substantial bilateral aid programme (£19m in South Pacific in 1985) and membership of South Pacific Commission.



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3. Independence Settlement of Capital Aid : £13 million (£2.3m expenditure in 1985/6)
Budgetary Aid 1985/6 : £0.75 million
Technical Co-operation 1985/6 : £2.7 million

Aid relations with Vanuatu have been largely cordial though tensions have arisen over Budgetary Aid, which on tapering basis scheduled to end in 1988. Rules require assessment of eligibility annually. Budget was assisted in 1985 only because of effect of cyclone damage on budget. Review of budget for 1986 by ODA officials showed no need for support from UK, but Vanuatu Government not doing best to maximise revenue (school fees introduced in 1985 were abolished, public sector salaries bill set for 9% increase (23% in 2 years).

4. Vanuatu Government announced 9.85% devaluation on 12 February, in bid to offset effects of drop in revenue from tourism and absence of UK budgetary aid.

5. Our aid policy to South Pacific is to honour present commitments for budgetary aid, continue to provide necessary Technical Co-operation, but not initiate new capital aid agreements after commitment of independence settlements. We will consider occasional capital aid priority but Vanuatu still has nearly £2 million capital aid uncommitted.

6. Much of Vanuatu's Statute Law has not been properly printed, bound or published in form of titled volumes. Objective is to consolidate existing volumes and all amendments and statutes, currently recorded separately, into definitive revised edition of Laws of Vanuatu. Vanuatu Government requested help with revision and printing. They would like UK to fund 2 law review specialists and printing costs of 500 sets in English and 250 in French. We are sympathetically considering request but consider 250 sets in English sufficient, and that French Government might meet costs of French version.

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7. Raised Soviet profile in Pacific over past few years, mainly by approaches to islands for fishing agreements and offers of oceanographic surveys. Very little success, apart from Kiribati, which signed a one-year agreement in August 1985 worth A\$2.4m. Allows 16 vessels to operate but no shore facilities. Vanuatu announced in July 1985 they were giving serious consideration to a Soviet approach. They have asked Russians for more detailed proposals. We believe still awaited, but might be given favourable consideration.

8. Vanuatu abstained over Falklands at the UN in 1982, 1983 and 1984. Their UN representative was unavoidably absent in 1985, but we have had no indication of any motive.

9. Vanuatu most radical of South Pacific island states. Diplomatic relations with Cuba, only member of NAM in South Pacific, most vociferous in condemnation of French tests and colonial policies in New Caledonia.

10. Vanuatu has refused to sign South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, for being too weak. Taken to refer to article allowing individual countries to decide own policies on ship visits. Active supporter of total nuclear ban in Pacific. SPNFZ Treaty signed by 9 of 13 South Pacific Forum members. Working Group visited Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to discuss Treaty and three Protocols, which seek:

- (i) undertakings from UK, US and France to apply key provisions of Treaty to territories within zone;
- (ii) undertaking from NWS not to undermine Treaty; and
- (iii) undertaking from NWS not to test within zone.

HMG's general view that NFZs in certain parts of world could contribute to regional security, non-proliferation and disarmament. Conditioned by nuclear weapons not already feature of region; all States participating freely and in keeping with internationally

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/recognised



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recognised principles. Visit of Working Group to London (10-11 February) allowed us to seek clarification of number of points. Will be given revised text of Protocols in due course and asked to ratify all three.

11. New Caledonia is a French Overseas Territory. Population 145,000 - 42% indigenous Melanesians (Kanaks), 38% European, remaining 20% from Pacific region. Pro-independence Melanesian party (FLNKS) pressing for independence. France has promised a referendum on independence by the end of 1987.

12. Elections for four newly created regions held in September 1985. Pro-independence FLNKS won control of three but anti-independence Europeans gained control of south, and of the Territorial Congress. Situation calm since. Anti-independence parties hope that a right wing government in France would reverse present government's policies in New Caledonia. The South Pacific Forum, the organisation of independent states in the region, at its last meeting, reaffirmed support for early transition to independence in a manner guaranteeing the rights and interests of all races.

13. The Forum statement was carried by consensus. However Vanuatu takes a more extreme line in support of the Kanaks (also Melanesians).

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
February 1986

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NI, FATHER WALTER HADYE, CBE

Prime Minister.

Born 1942 in North Pentecost. Educated at Vureas School on Ambae, in the Solomon Islands, and at St John's Theological College in Auckland. After graduation from St John's, worked as a deacon at the Anglican cathedral in Honiara.

Ordained an Anglican priest in 1971, he was appointed district priest for Longana, East Ambae. He was active in the foundation in 1971 of the New Hebrides Cultural Association, which later became the National Party and is now the Vanuaaku Party. In 1974 was elected President of the National Party and obtained leave of absence from his church to devote his time to politics. He was elected to the Representative Assembly in 1975. In 1974 and 1976 he appeared before the UN Committee of 24 as a petitioner on behalf of the National Party. As leader of the Vanuaaku Party he was invited in 1978 to join the Government of National Unity, headed by Father Gerard Leymang, as Deputy Chief Minister. Following the victory of the Vanuaaku Party in the November 1979 elections, was appointed Chief Minister, becoming Prime Minister at independence on 30 July 1980.

In the run-up to independence Father Lini displayed high qualities of leadership in exceedingly difficult and testing circumstances. After independence his position as Prime Minister seemed at times very precarious, and during late 1981 and early 1982 he was at loggerheads with virtually all his Ministers. He was saved by the support of the Executive of the Vanuaaku Party and by the fact that only a minority of VP MPs would have been prepared to support in Parliament a motion of no confidence in him. The main criticisms levelled against him, all to a degree justified, were that he was acting dictatorially without clearing decisions through the Council of Ministers, that he was unwise in his choice of certain associates, and that he was being manipulated by a small group of unreliable left-wing advisers. But he enjoys the respect of the Party and of the population as a whole to a much greater degree than most other Ministers. He was able to re-establish his authority when he and his Ministers realised that each needed the other and his position as undisputed leader of the Vanuaaku Party was decisively reaffirmed before the 1983 General Election. Subsequent to the election he has had a much easier relationship with his Ministers, dubious advisers are less in evidence, and he seems firmly in the saddle.

Father Lini has a presence and considerable charm. He speaks well, he is thoughtful (though without any great depth of intellect), and he retains grass-roots contacts with his people, particularly those on his home island of Pentecost. He is at his best in a gathering of ordinary people in one of the islands, but he greatly enjoys the international limelight, even if he seems sometimes a bit out of his depth. With mildly socialist convictions, a latent anti-American bias and a feeling that he ought to keep up with the Jones's of the Third World, he has sometimes been easily led by his more radical advisers and can act impulsively and unwisely. But he has the interests of his country at heart and he is genuinely attached to the principle of democracy. He is a sincere Christian, worships at the very unpretentious Anglican Church in Vila, and occasionally conducts services and preaches there.


Married with six children. He is a devoted family man, modest and temperate in his habits. Mary Lini comes from a remote outlying island in the Solomons group. She supports her husband conscientiously, dresses well and enjoys her status. She is a delightful person but is not very articulate in European company. Like her husband she is a sincere Christian and takes an active part in church life.



MEETING WITH FATHER LINI

1. Ask about recent conference of French Speaking Governments in Paris.
2. Reassure him about our continuing presence in Pacific and aid programme.
3. Invite him to discuss details of aid programme with Tim Raison. We sympathise with request for help with certification and printing of laws.
4. Thanks for abstentions on Falklands.
5. Advise caution over fisheries agreement with Russians.

16.

- 
6. French nuclear tests. South Pacific Nuclear Free zone.
 7. New Caledonia.



OV2/619

Programme of arrangements made by the
Central Office of Information for the
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Honourable Father Walter LINI
Prime Minister

Accompanied by:

Mrs Mary LINI

Mr Silas HAKWA, Attorney General

Mr R MALAPA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Belleay KALOTITI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Joe NATUMAN, Private Secretary

Inspector Peter BONG, Security Officer

And

A representative of the Central Office of Information

Vila

VANUATU

21 - 27 February 1986

Programme Organiser: Tim Lewis
Overseas Visitors and Information Studies
Central Office of Information
Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU

Direct Line : 01-261 8255
Switchboard : 01-928 2345 Ext 8255

Friday 21 February

1630

ARRIVAL IN BRITAIN

Arrive at London Heathrow Airport by Air France flight AF 816 from Paris.

Welcomed in the Hounslow Suite by Sir Donald Logan KCMG, Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and by Mr Tim Lewis and Mrs Enid Ackers, Overseas Visitors and Information Studies, Central Office of Information.

Continue by car to the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington High Street, London W8, (Tel: 01-937 8000), where accommodation has been reserved for six nights.

Evening

Free.

Saturday 22 February

LUNCH ENGAGEMENT

The Prime Minister,
Mrs Lini, Mr Hakwa
with 2 officials

Lunch as guests of Mr R B Dorman CBE, former British High Commissioner in Vanuatu, and Mrs Dorman, at 67 Beresford Road, Cheam, Surrey.

Details to follow.

The remainder of the day is free.

Sunday 23 February

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

0900

Leave hotel by car for Canterbury, Kent.

1045

Arrive at Canterbury Cathedral, South Door.

Met by Canon John de Sausmarez, Vice-Dean, and conducted to reserved seats.

1100

Attend Sung Eucharist.

Later

Accompanied on a brief sightseeing tour of the Cathedral by the Vice-Dean.

1300

Lunch at the County Hotel, High Street.

Later

Return to London by car.

Monday 24 February

PROGRAMME DISCUSSION
THE PRIME MINISTER
ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

0945

Joined at the hotel for a programme discussion by:

Mr John Crompton, Head of Overseas Visitors Section,
Central Office of Information.

Mr Michael Balmer, South Pacific Department,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Tim Lewis, Central Office of Information.

Mrs Enid Ackers, Central Office of Information.

Monday 24 February cont'd

The Prime Minister
with 2 officials

1030 Leave hotel by car.

1100 Arrive at 10 Downing Street, SW1.

Received by The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher FRS, MP, Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service.

1130 approx Leave Downing Street by car.

Whole Party

1230 Arrive at the Royal Commonwealth Society,
18 Northumberland Avenue, WC2.

Attend a Buffet Luncheon as guests of the Society,
followed by a meeting.

1315 The Hon Father Lini will speak on "International
Pressures in the Pacific".

1430 Leave Northumberland Avenue by car.

1455 Arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1. (Ambassadors' entrance).

1500 Received by The Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey
Howe QC, MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs and Minister of Overseas
Development.

1530 Leave Ambassadors' Entrance by car.

1600 Arrive at the Commonwealth Development Corporation,
33 Hill Street, W1.

Received by Lord Kindersley, Chairman.

Discussions with:

Mr J Eccles, General Manager.

Mr J Tuckett, Deputy General Manager.

Mr D Stephen, Head of External Relations.

1700 approx Leave Hill Street by car for return to the hotel.

Tuesday 25 February

MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS

- 1030 Leave hotel by car.
- 1055 Arrive at the Overseas Development Administration, Eland House, Stag Place, SW1.
- 1100 Received by The Right Honourable Timothy Raison MP, Minister for Overseas Development.
- 1130 Discussions with Mr K Wolverton, Head of Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific Department, and Mr Ian Brooks, Assistant Desk Officer, Pacific.
- 1230 Leave Stag Place by car.
- 1240 Arrive at the Palace of Westminster, SW1. (St Stephen's entrance).
Welcomed by Sir Robin Vanderfelt KBE, Secretary General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.
- 1245 Lunch in the Harcourt Room as guests of the
for Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.
1300
- 1428 View The Speaker's Procession in the Central Lobby.
- 1430 Attend Question Time in the House of Commons from seats in the Distinguished Strangers and Strangers Galleries.
- 1515 The Prime Minister answers questions.
- Later Leave the Palace of Westminster by car for return to the hotel.
- 1700 Mr Neil McIntosh, Director, and Ms Myra Green, Assistant Director (Overseas), Voluntary Service Overseas, will call on the Minister at the hotel.

Wednesday 26 February

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT
OFFICIAL LUNCHEON
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

- 1000 Leave hotel by car.
- 1025 Arrive at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, SW1.
- 1030 Received by Sir Peter Marshall KCMG, Deputy Secretary-General (Economic).
- 1130 Leave Pall Mall by car.
- 1245 Arrive at Admiralty House, Whitehall, SW1.
for
1300 Luncheon as guests of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
- Host: Mr Tim Eggar MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Wednesday 26 February cont'd

1430 approx

Leave Whitehall by car.

Mrs Lini
1530

Arrive at the British Red Cross Society, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1.

Received by Mr D J Wyatt, Director, International Division.

Later

Return to the hotel by car.

1800

Mr Christopher Price, Director, Leeds Polytechnic, will call on the Prime Minister at the hotel.

Thursday 27 February

DEPARTURE FROM BRITAIN

0815

Leave hotel by car, with luggage, for London Heathrow Airport, Hounslow Suite.

Sir Donald Logan KCMG, will represent the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

1005

Leave London by British Airways flight BA 376 to Brussels.

18 February 1986

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 February 1986

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF VANUATU

Thank you for your letter of 31 January about the visit of Father Walter Lini.

The Prime Minister has agreed to receive Father Lini for a brief courtesy call on Monday 24 February at 11 a.m.

Charles Powell

Robert Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Handwritten signature or initials in the bottom right corner.

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up
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 January 1986

CP
Monday
24 Feb
11.00
CR

Joan Charles

Yes
Prime Minister
Agree to see
Father Lini
briefly?
CP
3/2

Visit of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu

Father Walter Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, will be visiting Britain as a Category II Sponsored visitor from 22-26 February after attending a Francophone Heads of Government meeting in Paris.

Father Lini has been Prime Minister since independence in 1980 and was the leading political figure in the New Hebrides (as the country was previously known) for some years previously. The Prime Minister has met him at CHOGM. He last visited Britain in July 1983 when he paid a short call on Mrs Thatcher.

Vanuatu has consistently refused to vote against us in the UN over the Falklands. On other matters, they have a reputation as a maverick, through membership of the Non-Aligned Movement, diplomatic relations with Cuba and interest in a Soviet proposal for a fisheries agreement. They are also strongly opposed to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, which they consider too weak.

We realise the enormous pressures on the Prime Minister's time. I hope, however, that it might be possible for Father Lini to pay a very brief courtesy call during a rare visit. Apart from the normal courtesy to a Commonwealth Prime Minister, such a call would be of considerable value in foreign policy terms. Until recently Britain enjoyed noticeably better relations with Vanuatu than France, the other former metropolitan power. Our more helpful attitude to independence and over aid has given us a degree of influence with Father Lini. The French, who have been criticised for their colonial and nuclear policies, are now making a conscious effort, with a more generous attitude over aid and the invitation to Father Lini (an Anglophone) to attend a Francophone Conference. We believe it important to maintain and develop our influence both to promote our own national interests and to be able to restrain Vanuatu's sometimes maverick activities.

Joan Charles

Robert Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

W. H. H. ...
L. ...



SUBJECT

cc MINISTER



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 July 1983

Dear Brian,

Courtesy Call by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu

Father Lini called on the Prime Minister today at 1500 hours. He was accompanied by Mr. Kattan, the Attorney-General, Mr. Vuruburavo, Permanent Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Donald was also present.

There was little of substance in the 30 minute discussion. Father Lini began the conversation by congratulating the Prime Minister on the election result and saying that he himself expected to face elections in November, possibly in the first week though the date was not yet fixed. At a later stage in the conversation the Prime Minister said that she hoped that when she next saw Father Lini he would have won a decisive victory.

In response to the Prime Minister's questions, Father Lini said that his Government was trying to consolidate the unification programme in Vanuatu. The country was more at ease now than it had been just after Independence. There was a more peaceful and more certain atmosphere and people felt more confident about the future. Economically, Vanuatu had not done too badly, despite the world recession. Tourism and the tax haven had flourished well. The situation in Santo was still unsatisfactory, largely because people were uncertain as to whether they could still invest in the area. Mr. Jimmy Stevens was still in gaol. The Government were not prepared to release him until compensation had been paid. He did not expect agitation during the Vanuatu elections.

Relations with countries in the area and beyond were satisfactory, but Vanuatu's relations with the United States were rather strained, largely because it was not prepared to let American nuclear powered ships come to Port Vila. The Americans considered this attitude to be unnecessarily unfriendly. But Vanuatu would think it inconsistent if, having objected to French nuclear tests in the Pacific, it had taken any other attitude towards the American ships concerned.

The Prime Minister said that she believed that Vanuatu had established diplomatic relations with Cuba. Father Lini said that this was true. Relations had also been established with China, North and South Korea. But no Cuban Embassy had been established. He thought that the Cubans intended to accredit their Ambassador in Tokyo. He enquired about British relations with Cuba.

CONFIDENTIAL

/Mr. Donald

SB

Mr. Donald explained that we had correct relations, but were cautious since Cuba often acted as a surrogate for the Soviet Union. Towards the end of the conversation the Prime Minister said that she hoped that Vanuatu would not become too friendly with Cuba. It was possible to have diplomatic relations at a distance. The distance between Port Vila and Tokyo seemed about right in this case.

Father Lini said that he hoped to attend CHOGM. His Party, when it had entered Government, had decided immediately that Vanuatu should join the Commonwealth. The Opposition had then been against the idea, but were now more in favour.

As regards the economic future, he hoped for steady improvement. He attached most importance to certain agricultural projects, especially cattle farming, though there were difficulties stemming from existing land-ownership practices. Vanuatu might have to diversify more so that it was less dependent on copra and beef. In response to a question from Mr. Donald, Father Lini said that he found British aid helpful. The existence of the Development Division in Fiji made communications much easier. Although Britain was giving proportionally more aid to other countries in the area, Vanuatu was using our money carefully and usefully. He had recently decided to request a British Police Commandant to take over from the Australian Commandant, since the British police force was the most disciplined in the world.

The conversation ended at 1530.

A. J. COLES

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 July 1983

Don John,

Courtesy Call by Prime Minister of Vanuatu

The Prime Minister has kindly agreed to receive Father Walter Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, for a courtesy call at 3.00pm on 11 July. He will be accompanied by Mr Kattan, Attorney-General, and Mr Vuruburavo, Permanent Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Earlier on the same day Father Lini will have called on Mr Raison, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Lady Young (the latter will have hosted a luncheon in Father Lini's honour), and on 9 July he will have called on the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The main purpose of Father Lini's visit to the UK will have been to attend (in his capacity as Minister of Justice) a meeting in the Isle of Man, 3-8 July, of Law Officers from small Commonwealth countries. While in the country he wishes to pay his respects to the Prime Minister and make contact with the new Government. After London Father Lini will visit Peking, before returning to Vanuatu.

The Prime Minister last met Father Lini in November 1981, when he came to London primarily to seek (unsuccessfully) further aid. In the period since then - and particularly following the establishment in Fiji of a regional Development Division - the Vanuatu Government have come to terms with the size of the aid programme agreed on Independence, and are generally content with the nature of its disbursement. Father Lini is therefore not expected to raise this subject in substantive terms with the Prime Minister.

/Neither

Private Secretary
10 Downing St

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Neither has he told us of other issues which he particularly wished to discuss. For our part, his visit is an opportunity to talk to him about the trend of Vanuatu's domestic and (in particular) foreign policy and its leanings towards radicalism. The Prime Minister may wish to impress on Father Lini the extreme caution with which his Government should pursue its new relations with Cuba. She may also like to thank Father Lini for his past support over the Falklands and to encourage him to maintain this support in future. Our High Commissioner in Vila has counselled that Father Lini responds to flattery. He may prove well disposed to suitably sugar-coated advice from the Prime Minister.

/ I enclose appropriate briefing for the Prime Minister, in the Points to Make and Essential Facts format, together with personality notes and vital statistics of Vanuatu.
/ I also enclose a more detailed background brief on Vanuatu, which expands on the Essential Facts in the principal brief, and a copy of Father Lini's programme in the UK. //

Mr Alan Donald will attend the meeting as requested and as previously agreed a COI photographer will be present at the start.

Yours ever,
[Signature]

B J P Fall
(Private Secretary)

CONFIDENTIAL

VISIT OF VANUATU PRIME MINISTER
MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER : 11 JULY 1983
POINTS TO MAKE

Vanuatu Internal

1. Congratulations on re-election as President of Vanuaaku Pati. How do you view forthcoming general elections [2 November]?
2. Do you envisage significant policy changes by Government after election?
3. Vanuatu Government achievements over past 3 years are impressive, especially in view of difficult transition to Independence [30 July 1980].

UK Attitude

4. We will continue to help in Vanuatu's overall development as much as we are able to. Want Vanuatu to continue regarding us as friend, with no particular axe to grind in the Pacific.
5. We value the contribution Vanuatu can make to regional stability, and agree with wish to keep Pacific free of super-power politics and disruptive elements.

Vanuatu External

6. Continuing growth of Vanuatu's diplomatic relations is measure of your widening role in international issues. Note you recently entered diplomatic relations with Cuba. Sure you appreciate Cuba's external policy based on desire to export revolution. Opportunistic and dangerous activities in Africa and Central America. Suits Russia that Cuba plays surrogate role, and makes this possible by economic assistance.

Falklands

7. Grateful to Vanuatu for abstaining in vote on Argentine Resolution at UNGA last November. Hope Vanuatu will support us in upholding vital principle of the right of Falkland Islands to self-determination.

UK Aid Programme [Defensive]

8. We cannot provide more than our overall aid resources allow, and must work within annual allocations.

9. Glad we have been able to respond to appreciable number of requests. Despite slow start most are now going ahead quickly.

Santo Compensation Claim [If Raised]

10. Glad also to have been able to help with the claims against your Government for compensation to damage following the Santo rebellion.

SOUTH PACIFIC DEPARTMENT

July 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

VISIT OF VANUATU PRIME MINISTER
MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER: 11 JULY 1983
ESSENTIAL FACTS

Isle of Man Conference

1. Father Lini, who also has a Justice portfolio, is attending a Conference on the Isle of Man 3-8 July of Law Officers from small Commonwealth countries. Vanuatu has continuing need for advice and assistance in this area. It inherited complicated legal system, with British Law, French Law, Condominium Law and unwritten customary law all applying, according to circumstances. The rule of law and independence of judiciary has been properly upheld. UK aid programme has provided high quality legal staff: Chief Justice and Attorney General in particular.

Vanuaaki Pati (VP)

2. Led by Father Lini since 1979. June VP Congress re-elected him as President, and re-affirmed his leadership for 2 November general elections.
3. Signs of factionism developing within VP, comprising radicals, centrists, and conservatives. Lini's personal philosophy seems left-Centre, but appears obligated to more radical cadre for continuing support of his leadership. President Sokomanu has indicated interest in returning to politics, where he would seek support from more conservative elements of VP as well as opposition MPs.

Vanuatu-UK Relations

4. Relations good, main content of which is aid programme. Vanuatu Government's (VG) previous expectations of high level of UK aid now more realistic. [Father Lini will have discussed aid with Mr Raison, morning of 11 July.]

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UK Aid Programme : Policy

5. Programme based on Independence Financial Settlement (IFS) signed December 1980. Comprises:

- (a) up to £13 million development grant (subject to annual expenditure ceiling of £2.25 million);
- (b) budgetary aid - £6.4 million in 1980 and 1981, £1.62 million in 1983 - which we and VG aim to phase out, though expect it to continue until at least 1986;
- (c) technical co-operation (100 fully ODA-funded experts, plus supplemented staff; UK training programme and provision of consultants);
- (d) additional support in event of natural disasters.

6. Total aid framework provision for 1983/84 is £7.01 million. This reflects the generous, once-and-for-all IFS. Future levels will need to be reduced gradually, as is generally understood by our Pacific recipients.

Cuba

7. Vanuatu and Cuba agreed 11 March in New Delhi to enter into diplomatic relations. No Ambassadors exchanged so far.

8. Agreement seen partly as factor of VG's attraction to radical policies (in contrast to other Pacific islands) and partly in recognition of Cuban support at UN during transition to Independence. Danger is that VG does not appreciate Cuba's role as Soviet client state.

Vanuatu Foreign Policy

9. Consistent pursuit of non-alignment and even-handedness to East and West. Supporter of all "independence struggles". Espouses trendy causes eg Polisario, not directly relevant to own interests. Vociferous opponent of all things nuclear: arms, testing, dumping. Proponent of Nuclear Free Zone for South Pacific. But much role-playing, in expression of political independence.

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10. Vanuatu's eccentric style causing regional disquiet, particularly with Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Fiji. Concern that Vanuatu may move further away from its neighbours' policies and upset pro-Western consensus in the region.

Santo Compensation Claim

11. The 1980 rebellion on Santo resulted in damage to property estimated by the VG at around £1.8 million. Following on from our agreement in principle of 1980 to contribute towards VG's compensation bill to claimants, we formally offered in March 1983 ex gratia payment to VG of one third of total claim, subject to verification and assessment by a professional firm. VG warmly welcomed our offer, and process of assessment will commence shortly. Payment will be on ODA Vote.

General

12. Impressive Government achievements over past three years, particularly given the very difficult circumstances in which Vanuatu became independent. Law and order and normal principles of democratic government all been maintained. Has been measure of reconciliation between opposing factions since Santo rebellion (March-August 1980) and the country has been developing sensibly.

SOUTH PACIFIC DEPARTMENT

July 1983

CONFIDENTIAL



LINI, FATHER WALTER HADYE

Prime Minister of Vanuatu.

Born 1942 in North Pentecost. Educated at the St John's Kohimarana Theological College in the Solomon Islands and at St John's Theological College in Auckland.

Ordained an Anglican priest in 1970, he was appointed district priest for Longana, East Aoba. He was active in the foundation in 1971 of the New Hebrides Cultural Association, which later became the National Party and is now the Vanuaaku (Government) Party. In 1974 was elected President of the National Party and obtained leave of absence from his church to devote his time to politics. He was elected to the Representative Assembly in 1975. In 1974 and 1976 he appeared before the UN Committee of 24 as a petitioner on behalf of the National Party. As leader of the Vanuaaku Party he was invited in 1978 to join the Government of National Unity, headed by Father Gerard Leymang, as Deputy Chief Minister. Following the victory of the Vanuaaku Party in the November 1979 election, was appointed Chief Minister, becoming Prime Minister at independence on 30 July 1980.

Governing by consensus, he has nevertheless been much criticised for indecisive leadership. He is all for the quiet life and is essentially pacific in his attitude toward his colleagues who, with only rare exceptions, he regards with a lofty intellectual and moral disdain. Though vacillating, he is not entirely irresolute. He has a streak of obstinacy which, however, tends to manifest itself over lost causes: he is obdurate on matters of no real moment while permitting himself to be overridden on more substantial issues. Lacking in any degree of ruthlessness, he is habitually overruled in Cabinet even though he frequently shows a more enlightened outlook than do his Ministers. He remains in office less by virtue of his own abilities than by the fear that any move to replace him might have consequences disastrous to fragile Cabinet solidarity. His generally pusillanimous performance in office is reflected in his normal deference to the Party, in whose Executive the real power resides. His initiative sometimes show qualities of statesmanship but these are swiftly extinguished by almost automatic opposition from his colleagues. Under pressure he has frequently threatened to resign, talking of having done his duty and wanting to return to his flock and the simple life. He has flirted with left-brand socialism in the past, tries hard to conceal his franco-phobia and, despite bitter criticism of us before independence, has come to see Britain as a true friend.

Urbane, often articulate, he has a presence and civilised demeanour denied most of his Ministers. Can exert considerable charm and is socially relaxed. Carries the burdens of office apparently effortlessly. He genuinely cherishes the democratic concept. A dedicated family man, his private life is unimpeachable, and he is thought to be incorruptible, a rare commodity in Melanesia.

Married (to a Solomon Islander) with five children.

South Pacific Department, FCO
July 1983

CONFIDENTIAL



VURUBURAVO, NIKÉ NIKÉ

Secretary, Vanuatu Department of Foreign Affairs, since September 1982.

Mr Vuruburavo holds a degree in Public Administration from the University of the South Pacific, Suva. He was Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs (1980-82) and has held his present position, which is that of official head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since Mr Barak Sopé's election to Parliament in September 1982. He is 28 years of age and has not previously visited Britain, but has travelled extensively in the South Pacific and has completed a three month training course in Australia. Not married.

South Pacific Department
July 1983



KATTAN, WILLIAM VICTOR GIRLES

Attorney-General, Vanuatu, since 1982.

Mr Kattan holds the Degrees of LLB from Manchester University (1971) and Master of Laws, London University (1973). He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1973. He was a member of the Sudan Law Revision Committee, Khartoum (1975-77) and Legal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General in Khartoum (1977-80). in 1980 he moved to Vanuatu as Legal Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers, Port Vila. He has been Attorney General since 1982. He is 36 years of age, holds Sudanese (formerly Palestinian) nationality and is a Technical Co-operation officer under contract to the ODA.

South Pacific Department
July 1983



VANUATU
VITAL STATISTICS

General

Vanuatu is an independent Republic within the Commonwealth. Among the middle range of the South Pacific island countries in terms of size and economic wealth. Dependent on foreign aid (mainly from UK, France and Australia) for economic development, and on British and French budgetary support funds.

<u>President</u>	:	Ati George Sokomanu MBE
<u>Prime Minister and Foreign Minister</u>	:	Father Walter Lini CBE
<u>British High Commissioner, Vila</u>	:	Richard B Dorman
<u>Population</u>	:	117,000 (1980)
<u>Land Area</u>	:	14,763 sq kms
<u>GNP per capita</u>	:	US \$530 (1980)
<u>Position in per capita league table</u>	:	126 (out of 174)
<u>Total GNP</u>	:	US \$60 million (1980)
<u>GNP growth rate</u>	:	4.5% (1970-79)
<u>Main Exports (1979)</u>	:	Copra - 53% of total exports
		Fish (frozen) - 29%
		Beef and veal - 4%
		Cocoa - 3%
<u>Main Export Markets (1979)</u>	:	France - 40% of total
		USA and Canada - 27%
		Other Europe - 23%
		(of which UK insignificant)
		Japan - 5%
		Other Pacific - 3%

/Major



UNCLASSIFIED

Major sources of imports (1979) : Australia - 32% of total
Other Pacific - 18%
France - 17%
Japan - 12%
UK - 2%

Total Value of Imports from UK : £622,000
(1980)

Major Imports (1979) : Food beverages and tobacco - 29% of total
Industrial materials - 15%
Fuels and lubricants - 12%
Machinery - 11%
Transport equipment - 10%
Consumer goods n.e.s - 20%



VISIT OF VANUATU PRIME MINISTER 9-13 JULY 1983

BACKGROUND NOTE

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

Historical

1. Anglo-French Condominium of New Hebrides established in 1906. Anglo-French Protocol of 1914 constituted New Hebrides as "region of joint influence", and dual British and French Resident Commissioners. Parallel administrations were established. Voting for first Representative Assembly by universal suffrage took place in 1975. Independent Republic of Vanuatu established 30 July 1980, with President as Head of State and unicameral legislature elected every 4 years. Westminster-style democracy is generally followed.

Internal Political : General

2. By Pacific standards the internal political scene remains volatile. Stems partly from tensions between traditional 'custom' beliefs and newer 'modern' influences; and partly from nature of country's administration before Independence. Consequent rivalry between anglophones and francophones manifested itself in francophone-inspired rebellion on Santo in period leading up to Independence. Vanuatu Government still concerned about divisions in society left by the colonial administrations, and is continuing to work towards reconciliation.

3. Father Walter Lini has led anglophone dominated Vanuaaku Pati (VP) since 1979 pre-Independence elections. Main opposition is francophone Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) and smaller Vanuatu Independent Alliance Party (VIAP). The VP has faced dissension within its ranks. Father Lini's position never strong. Economic prospects are bleak and central Government may face increasing challenge from more disaffected island



non-alignment and NAM issues since Independence, Vanuatu emerging as most radical of South Pacific states. But there is much role-playing, aimed at extracting respect and economic concessions from, eg. Australia. There is also willingness to be provocative in face of perceived Western hegemony in the region.

9. Vanuatu continues as most vigorous supporter of New Caledonian independence and outspoken opponent of French nuclear testing in French Polynesia (Mururoa Atoll). Also a supporter of all other "independence struggles" eg. West Papua, East Timor, Polisario. In pursuing policy of even-handedness to East and West, Lini declined diplomatic relations both with USA and USSR, while arguing that American influence in South Pacific already "excessive". Also denied passage to US warships in absence of assurance that they are neither nuclear-powered nor nuclear-armed.

10. Diplomatic relations that have been established include those with PRC, Vietnam, North and South Korea and - in March - with Cuba, the latter partly in recognition of Cuban support at UN during transition to Independence. Vanuatu also joined NAM in March, emphasising support for NAM's role in global affairs particularly over issues of self-determination, nuclear disarmament, and north-south economic issues.

11. Although Vanuatu foreign policy has been aberrant, in regional context, it has not been consistently anti-Western. Has shown no empathy with Soviet Union, supported UN Resolution for withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, and rejected Soviet offer of oceanographic research. But in its new relationship with Cuba and NAM Vanuatu does not appreciate Cuba's role as Soviet client state, nor the pressures it will come under within the NAM to support other issues; and is causing some regional disquiet, in particular among Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji. General concern is that Vanuatu may move



inexorably further away from its neighbours' policies and, by its eccentric style, upset the broad pro-Western consensus in the region.

UK-Vanuatu Relations

12. Bilateral relations are good. Vanuatu Government (VG) appreciative of our role in bringing the country to independence. Has been some strain over VG's expectations that high level of UK aid (main context of our relationship) would continue after the Independence financial settlement. But fruitful exchanges during recent visits to Vanuatu by Head of ODA's new Development Division reassured ni-Vanuatu on future aid policy.

13. Vanuatu helpfully abstained 4 November at UNGA vote on Falklands resolution. Might have followed NAM line, but decision to abstain seen as conscious act in support of UK.

Matthew and Hunter Islands

14. Two small, uninhabited volcanic islands, located halfway between Vanuatu and New Caledonia (a French overseas territory). Most British and other records indicated islands formed part of French territory of New Caledonia. But following Fiji-France agreement (December 1982) on demarcation of Fiji-New Caledonia maritime boundaries, Vanuatu protested at implication that Matthew and Hunter belonged to New Caledonia. UK is on record as being content with French view (expressed formally in 1965 and 1980) that islands are part of New Caledonia.

15. Vanuatu interest in these islands derives partly from national pride and partly because of the potential to extend the archipelagic baseline from which Vanuatu's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone would be measured.



Vanuatu's Economy

16. Based predominantly on subsistence agriculture, with copra as main cash crop and principal export. Growing interest in Vanuatu as an off-shore financial centre with flag of convenience shipping register. Tourism is important development.

Industrial development is in early stages. Most of Government's recurrent expenditure is for social services, and unless revenue base is enlarged Government's financial constraints likely to intensify.

17. UK trade with Vanuatu is negligible.



TR3/6305

Programme of arrangements made by the
Central Office of Information for the
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

A.J.C. 4/7

p.a.

PRIME MINISTER AND DELEGATION

Hon Father Walter Hadye LINI
Prime Minister of Vanuatu

Mr Nike Nike VURUBURAVO
Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Official Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr William Victor Girles KATTAN
Attorney General

VANUATU

2 - 3 and 9 - 13 July 1983

Accompanied by representatives of the Central Office of Information and
the Prime Minister's Security Officer, Mr A Bambara

Saturday 2 July

ARRIVAL IN BRITAIN

10.55

Arrive at London, Heathrow Airport on British Airways Flight BA 12 from Sydney (Hillingdon Suite).

Met by Sir John Stowe GCMG KCVO, Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Mr Denis Daly, Central Office of Information, and continue by car to St Ermin's Hotel, Caxton Street, SW1 (Tel: 222-7888) where the visitors will be staying privately.

Sunday 3 July

THE GUARDS CHAPEL: MORNING SERVICE
LONDON-ISLE OF MAN

10.30

Leave hotel by car to attend the 11.00 am Morning Service at the Guards Chapel, Birdcage Walk, SW1, accompanied by Mr Denis Daly, Central Office of Information.

Lunch as convenient. The car will be available for sightseeing with Mr Daly during the afternoon.

17.30

Leave the hotel by car with luggage for London, Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1, accompanied by Mr Denis Daly.

19.00

Leave Airport on Manx Airlines Flight JE 308.

20.20

Arrive at Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man to attend the Commonwealth Law Offices Conference until Saturday 9 July.

The programme in the Isle of Man has been arranged privately with the Manx authorities.

Saturday 9 July

ISLE OF MAN-LONDON
LONDON-CANTERBURY
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
CANTERBURY-LONDON

07.40

Leave Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man on Manx Airlines Flight JE 303.

09.00

Arrive at London, Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1.

Met by a representative of the Central Office of Information and continue by car to St Ermin's Hotel Caxton Street, SW1.

Lunch as convenient.

15.00

Leave central London by car for Canterbury accompanied by a representative of the Central Office of Information.

17.15

Arrive at the Old Palace, Canterbury, Kent.

Saturday 9 July Cont'd

Received by Rev David Maple, Archbishop's Chaplain, and taken for a meeting with the Most Reverend and Right Honourable the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie MC.

18.00

Leave the Old Palace, Canterbury by car for return to the hotel.

Sunday 10 July

ARRIVAL IN BRITAIN OF MR VURUBURAVO
MATINS: ST MARTINS-IN-THE-FIELDS

09.35

Mr Vuruburavo arrives at London, Heathrow Airport (Terminal 3) on British Airways Flight BA 002 from Sydney.

Met by a representative of the Central Office of Information and continue by car to St Ermin's Hotel, where he will be staying privately, with the other visitors, until 13 July.

11.00

Leave the hotel by car, accompanied by Mr Howard Spurr, Central Office of Information.

11.15

Arrive at St Martins-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, WC2.

Received in the Clergy Vestry by the Senior Curate, Rev Charles Hedley for Robing and preparation for Matins (11.30 am), at which the Hon Father Lini has been invited to preach.

12.30
approx

Leave St Martins-in-the-Fields Church by car for return to the hotel.

Lunch independently as convenient.

Afternoon

Free for private engagements.

Monday 11 July

PROGRAMME DISCUSSION
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS
OFFICIAL LUNCH: FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
PRIME MINISTER

09.00

Joined at the hotel by Mr John Crompton, Deputy Director, Overseas Visitors and Information Studies Division, Central Office of Information.

Mr Howard Spurr will discuss the programme.

Mr Peter Scanlon, Head of Visits Section and Mr Jim Atkinson, Vanuatu Desk, South Pacific Department, will represent the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Monday 11 July Cont'd

Mr Denis Daly will accompany the visitors to their appointments in London.

09.45 Leave hotel by car.

10.00 Arrive at the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), Eland House, Stag Place, SW1.

Received by Mr Terence Wright and taken to meet the Rt Hon Timothy Raison MP, Minister for Overseas Development and other senior officials at the ODA to discuss the development and needs of Vanuatu.

11.00 Leave Stag Place by car.

11.30 Arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Ambassadors Entrance, Downing Street, SW1, for a courtesy visit on the Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

12.00 Remain at the FCO for discussions with the Rt Hon the Baroness Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

12.45 Official lunch as the guest of the FCO at Lancaster
for House, Stable Yard, St James's, SW1.

13.00 Host: The Rt Hon the Baroness Young

15.00 Arrive at 10 Downing Street, SW1 for a courtesy visit on the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP, Prime Minister.

Later Leave Downing Street by car for return to the hotel.

Evening Free for Dinner and a Theatre visit if desired.

Tuesday 12 July

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT
PARLIAMENT
LUNCHEON WITH MPs
QUESTION TIME: HOUSE OF COMMONS
DINNER ENGAGEMENT

09.30 Leave hotel by car.

10.00 Arrive at the Commonwealth Development Corporation, 33 Hill Street, SW1.

Met by Mrs Ellis and taken for discussion on topics of common interest with Sir Peter Meinertzhagen CMG, General Manager and other senior officials of the Corporation.

11.00 Leave Hill Street by car.

11.30 Arrive at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, SW1.

Tuesday 12 July Cont'd

Met by Mrs Patsy Robertson and taken for discussions on topics of mutual interest with Chief Eleazar Chukwuemeka Anyaoku, Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

12.00 Leave Pall Mall by car.

12.15 Arrive at the Palace of Westminster, SW1, St Stephen's Entrance.

Met by a Member of Parliament in the Central Lobby for a short tour of the Palace of Westminster, to include the House of Lords.

12.30 Visit the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Westminster Hall to meet Mr Peter Cobb, Secretary, and sign the Association's Visitors' Book.

12.45 Refreshments in the Pugin Room.
for
13.00

13.00 Lunch will be served in the Stranger's Dining Room.

Joined by Members of Parliament representing the Government and Opposition Parties, and a representative of the FCO.

14.25 Watch the Speaker's Procession in the Central Lobby.

14.45 Observe proceedings in the House of Commons including Prime Minister's Question Time at 15.15.

15.30 Leave Westminster by car for sightseeing and subsequent
approx return to hotel.

19.30 Leave hotel by car.

19.45 Arrive at the United Oxford and Cambridge Universities
for Club, 71 Pall Mall, SW1 for dinner as guests of Posford,
20.00 Pavry and Partners (Consulting Engineers).

Hosts: Mr John Posford, Senior Partner and
Mr Alastair Stirling and Mr John Barker, Partners.

Later Leave Pall Mall by car for return to the hotel.

Wednesday 13 July

DEPARTURE FROM BRITAIN

08.30

Leave hotel by car with luggage, accompanied by Mr Howard Spurr and travel to London, Heathrow Airport (Hillingdon Suite).

Sir John Stowe GCMG KCVO, will be in attendance.

10.00

Leave airport on British Airways Flight BA 3 for Peking.

END OF COI PROGRAMME OF ARRANGEMENTS

Programme Organiser:

Howard Spurr
Overseas Visitors and Information Studies Division
Central Office of Information
Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU

Tel: 01-928 2345 Ext 311

1 July 1983



Background Note

TR3/6305

PRIME MINISTER AND AIDES

Hon Father Walter Hadye LINI
Prime Minister of Vanuatu

Mr Nike Nike VURUBURAVO
Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Official Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr William Victor Girles KATTAN
Attorney General

VANUATU

2 - 3 and 9 - 13 July 1983

Accompanied by representatives of the Central Office of Information and the Prime Minister's Security Officer, Mr A Bambara

The group are attending the Commonwealth Law Officers Meeting on the Isle of Man from 3 - 8 July and are coming to the mainland for a short private visit thereafter.

Father Lini was educated at Theological Colleges in the Solomon Islands and Auckland and was ordained an Anglican Priest in 1970. He was Chief Minister of the New Hebrides Government (1979-80) and has been Prime Minister of Vanuatu since 1980. He is also Minister of Justice. He is 41 years of age, has visited Britain on several previous occasions and has also visited the USA, France, Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Vuruburavo holds a degree in Public Administration from the University of the South Pacific, Suva. He was Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs (1980-82) and has held his present position, which is that of official head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since 1982. He is 28 years of age and has not previously visited Britain, but has travelled extensively in the South Pacific and has completed a three month training course in Australia.

Mr Kattan holds the Degrees of LLB from Manchester University (1971) and Master of Laws, London University (1973). He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1973. He was a member of the Sudan Law Revision Committee, Khartoum (1975-77) and Legal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General in Khartoum (1977-80). In 1980 he moved to Vanuatu as Legal Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers, Port Vila. He has been Attorney General since 1982. He is 36 years of age, holds Sudanese (formerly Palestinian) nationality and is a Technical Co-operation officer under contract to the ODA.

All the visitors speak good English. Apart from meeting Law Officers from other small Commonwealth Countries in the Isle of Man the purpose of the visit is to pay official calls on British political leaders, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the ODA, the Commonwealth Development Corporation and the

Commonwealth Institute. The Prime Minister, as a practising Anglican Priest, would also like to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury and participate in a religious service at one of the main London Churches.

Programme Organiser: Howard Spurr
Overseas Visitors and Information Studies Division
Central Office of Information
Hercules Road, London SE1

Tel: 01-928 2345, Ext 211

27 June 1983



Background Note

TR3/6305

PRIME MINISTER AND AIDES

Hon Father Walter Hadye LINI
Prime Minister of Vanuatu

Mr Nike Nike VURUBURAVO
Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Official Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr William Victor Girles KATTAN
Attorney General

VANUATU

2 - 3 and 9 - 13 July 1983

Accompanied by representatives of the Central Office of Information and the Prime Minister's Security Officer, Mr A Bambara

The group are attending the Commonwealth Law Officers Meeting on the Isle of Man from 3 - 8 July and are coming to the mainland for a short private visit thereafter.

Father Lini was educated at Theological Colleges in the Solomon Islands and Auckland and was ordained an Anglican Priest in 1970. He was Chief Minister of the New Hebrides Government (1979-80) and has been Prime Minister of Vanuatu since 1980. He is also Minister of Justice. He is 41 years of age, has visited Britain on several previous occasions and has also visited the USA, France, Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Vuruburavo holds a degree in Public Administration from the University of the South Pacific, Suva. He was Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs (1980-82) and has held his present position, which is that of official head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since 1982. He is 28 years of age and has not previously visited Britain, but has travelled extensively in the South Pacific and has completed a three month training course in Australia.

Mr Kattan holds the Degrees of LLB from Manchester University (1971) and Master of Laws, London University (1973). He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1973. He was a member of the Sudan Law Revision Committee, Khartoum (1975-77) and Legal Counsel, Office of the Attorney General in Khartoum (1977-80). In 1980 he moved to Vanuatu as Legal Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers, Port Vila. He has been Attorney General since 1982. He is 36 years of age, holds Sudanese (formerly Palestinian) nationality and is a Technical Co-operation officer under contract to the ODA.

All the visitors speak good English. Apart from meeting Law Officers from other small Commonwealth Countries in the Isle of Man the purpose of the visit is to pay official calls on British political leaders, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the ODA, the Commonwealth Development Corporation and the

Commonwealth Institute. The Prime Minister, as a practising Anglican Priest, would also like to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury and participate in a religious service at one of the main London Churches.

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27 June 1983

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Vanuatu ^{Jul}

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 June 1983

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER
OF VANUATU

Thank you for your letter of 23 June.
The Prime Minister could see Father Walter Lini
at 1500 hours on 11 July.

Mrs. Thatcher has commented that
Father Lini is likely to seek increased aid.
I should be grateful if the brief could
cover this matter.

A. J. COLES

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Prime Minister

Marginal.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Agree to see him at 1500

London SW1A 2AH

on 11 July

23 June 1983

A.S.C. $\frac{24}{6}$

It will ~~do~~ ^{ask} ~~for~~ ^{ask for} ~~more~~ ^{ask for more} money

Yes no

Dear John,

Visit of the Vanuatu Prime Minister

Father Walter Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, will be visiting Britain from 9-13 July after attending a meeting in the Isle of Man of Law Officers from small Commonwealth countries.

Father Lini has been Prime Minister since Vanuatu gained independence in 1980 and the leading political figure in Vanuatu almost since politics started. The Prime Minister met him at the September 1981 CHGM in Melbourne, and also during his only other post-Independence visit to Britain in November 1981.

Vanuatu abstained in the UNGA vote over the Falklands on 4 November 1982, has recently joined the Non-Aligned Movement, and has agreed to establish - but taken no steps to implement - diplomatic relations with Cuba. The government is emerging as a principal sponsor of the pro-Independence groups in nearby New Caledonia and is the most outspoken opponent of French policies in the region. As a result, Vanuatu and Father Lini have acquired a reputation as the mavericks of the South Pacific. But our High Commissioner reports that Father Lini is well disposed towards Britain and believes, despite some opposition, that Father Lini will be re-elected as Prime Minister at the general elections due in November. His visit will give us the opportunity of explaining our foreign policy concerns and, particularly in the context of the forthcoming UN General Assembly, of trying to win him over on the Falklands issue.

It would be normal for a Commonwealth Prime Minister to pay a short courtesy call on the Prime Minister during a visit, and there is no doubt that Father Lini

/would

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would react well to this. Without wishing to overstate the case, if the Prime Minister had a few minutes available during the afternoon of Monday, 11 July it would clearly be in the interests of our relations with Vanuatu, as well as generally within the region.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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23 JUN 1983

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Vanuatu *dy*

7 December 1981

FATHER WALTER LINI

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 1 December to Michael Alexander and noted its contents.

A. J. COLES

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

6



Prime Minister

(4)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 December 1981

Rev

Dear Michael,

MS

Father Walter Lini

Thank you for your letter of 23 November giving an account of Father Lini's talk with the Prime Minister. In view of Father Lini's references to such matters as the aid talks, compensation for the damage caused in the Santo rebellion and the Vanuatu Government's land policy you may wish to know the outcome of Father Lini's discussions here.

Aid talks were held on 24 November at which the Vanuatu Government accepted the ODA's offer of 350 million vatu (approximately £2.2 million) for 1982. The ODA's offer of 350 million vatu was in response to a bid for 354 million vatu made by Mr Kalsakau, the Minister of Finance, who had previously sought 400 million vatu. The ODA's figure, authorised by the Treasury, represents an increase of 30 million vatu over the original offer and was sufficient to conclude a satisfactory agreement. Following these talks Father Lini saw Mr Marten and Lord Carrington. He registered some disappointment at the level of aid agreed but said that he was nevertheless satisfied with the outcome of the talks. He said that as a result of the agreements reached in Paris and London the Vanuatu Government would now be able to implement their budget for 1982.

Father Lini also raised the question of compensation for damage caused during the Santo rebellion. He was told that we would be willing to consider a claim once properly documented evidence had been provided on the basis originally agreed that one third each would be met by the British, French and Vanuatu Governments.

Finally, on the question of the Vanuatu Government's land policy, the Vanuatu Attorney General held preliminary talks on 24 November with FCO Legal Advisers.

What could have been a difficult visit thus concluded satisfactorily. Although Father Lini himself may still harbour some disappointment the evidence from his Ministers and colleagues suggests that they are very happy with the outcome of the visit and appreciative of the way in which it has been handled.

yours etc
R M J Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

SW
Vanuatu

SUBJECT.



cc. Market set.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 November, 1981.

Kear Rodric,

Father Walter Lini

I have already briefed you on the telephone about the main issue raised by Father Lini when he called on the Prime Minister earlier this afternoon. However, you may like to have a slightly fuller account of the conversation.

Father Lini said that the security situation in Vanuatu was good. The country was calm, and the people had accepted the rule of law. The main problem he anticipated was with the members of the public service who were demanding increased pay and the institution of a system of social security. This would cause problems with the Budget. It would be difficult for the Government to cope if HMG were to offer less than the Government of Vanuatu needed.

In reply to a question from the Prime Minister, Father Lini said that his Government had expected to receive budgetary aid amounting to £2.9 m in 1981 (sic) - presumably Father Lini may have meant 1982. HMG were now offering £1.9 m, a cut of 34%. All other factors apart, it was difficult to reconcile this cut with HMG's earlier agreement to cut budgetary aid by no more than 15% each year. The Government of Vanuatu would not be able to raise any additional money themselves. Such money as they had available had had to be spent on unavoidable items such as the establishment of a mobile force. If HMG were to insist on the figure of £1.9 m, the effects might include a major reduction in the number of technical personnel working in Vanuatu (Father Lini indicated a cut from 160 to 110) and discontent in the public service. Unfavourable comparisons would inevitably be drawn between HMG's performance and that of the French who were going to make a "special effort" in Vanuatu with the aim of regaining the position they had lost last year.

Against this background, Father Lini asked whether it would be possible for the offer of £1.9 m to be increased to £2.4 m. The Prime Minister asked what programmes or projects would have to be postponed if no increase was forthcoming. Father Lini was unable to give any very clear answer, though he suggested that the inability of his Government to initiate any development projects would mean a

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/ reduction

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reduction of their earning power in future. He also said that it would be easier to accept the cut to £1.9 m if there were a clear statement by Britain and France that compensation for the damage caused in Santo would be paid quickly. He said that too much time was being wasted in asking detailed questions. The Prime Minister took note of what Father Lini said on aid in general and on compensation in Santo, but gave no commitments of any kind.

There was a brief exchange on the question of the Vanuatu Government's intention to convert freehold tenures to leasehold. Father Lini seemed rather unclear about the details. However, he said that he had brought his Attorney General with him who would be happy to have talks with our legal experts. The Prime Minister suggested that a Foreign and Commonwealth Office legal adviser might be a suitable person for him to see.

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

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

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 November 1981

Dear Michael,

Father Walter Lini's Call on the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister has kindly agreed to receive Father Walter Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, for a courtesy call at 1630 hrs on 23 November. He will be accompanied by Mr Laloyer of the Vanuatu Department of Foreign Affairs.

During his visit to London from 22 - 26 November Father Lini will meet Lord Carrington and be the guest of the Lord Privy Seal at lunch (both on 23 November). At Father Lini's request we have also arranged a call on the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Father Lini is visiting both Paris and London and the main purpose of both visits is to obtain further aid. His main objective in London will be to try to persuade us to maintain the present high level of British aid and in this connection Father Lini will be seeing Mr Marten and ODA officials on 24 November. While ODA will give Father Lini a sympathetic hearing he will not obtain the full amount of budgetary aid that he would like. It is therefore likely that he will address some special pleading to the Prime Minister.

In general conversation with Father Lini the Prime Minister may wish to seek his views on general developments in Vanuatu since Independence in July 1980 and the progress made since the Santo rebellion. She may also wish to enquire about his visit to Paris (16 - 22 November) and his views on the future of the French in the Pacific.

/When the

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street



/ When the Prime Minister met Father Lini in Melbourne at the CHGM he raised three points on which I now attach a short note in case he raises these during his courtesy call. All three points relate to aid and the Prime Minister may feel that Father Lini could be encouraged to take them up with ODA on 24 November.

I should be grateful if you would let me know of any particular points raised during the call on which it might be appropriate to advise ODA before their meetings on 24 November.

/ I attach a personality note on Father Lini.

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary



POINTS RAISED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BY FATHER LINI AT
CHGM IN OCTOBER

1. " Money being provided by Britain for law and order should be extended from 5 years to 6" .

Point to Make

It is my understanding that we were not aware that British funds were being used directly for law and order.

2. " Britain should help establish a loan fund for dispossessed farmers" .

Point to Make

I understand that the Vanuatu Government proposes to convert freehold tenure to leasehold and is looking for funds to compensate expatriate landowners. This proposal would not prima facie be a proper claim for British aid.

3. " HMG should ask the French to pay their aid subvention due on 30 September" .

Point to Make

Lord Carrington intended raising this with M. Cheysson. In the event it proved unnecessary to do so as a new French Ambassador was appointed to Vanuatu and some French aid unblocked.



ESSENTIAL FACTS

Funds for Law and Order

1. Mr Blaker (then Minister of State, FCO) was approached by Father Lini in Fiji in October 1980 for assistance in providing approximately £850,000 which he needed to pay the salaries of an expanded Police Mobile Unit (PMU). Our High Commissioner in Vila followed up this request and Father Lini undertook to provide a detailed breakdown justifying the force level and associated expenditure.
2. Following the request to Mr Blaker, the PMU then undertook training in Papua New Guinea with PNG and Australian financial assistance and we were not approached again on this subject by Father Lini.
3. The first post-Independence budget which was presented on 25 February 1981 included a provision for the salaries of the mobile force, and we thought it likely therefore that we could consider the request from Father Lini as having lapsed.
4. Nevertheless, it is possible that without further reference to us some British budgetary aid has been used towards the cost of salaries. In principle, we do not wish to encourage this as there could be parliamentary and public criticism for providing British aid to a police force which, at least immediately post-Independence, had forgotten the "minimum force" requirement. There also remains the danger that the police force could be used as a private political army.

Expropriation of Land

5. We understand that the Vanuatu Government intend establishing a Land Control Organisation whose main objective is to change all freehold tenures into leasehold and to return ownership of land to the former "custom" owners. The Vanuatu Government's intention seems to be to compensate former freeholders for improvements only, leaving them to claim compensation for loss of title from the former colonial powers. In order to avoid the reversion of developed land to bush, the Vanuatu Government is seeking help to establish a fund to pay compensation for

/improvements



improvements.

2. We have not been approached formally on this matter by the Vanuatu Government, but we have told them informally that in our view the question of compensation is a matter for the expropriating power and that HMG would not look favourably upon claims for loss of title.

LINI, FATHER WALTER HADYE

Prime Minister.

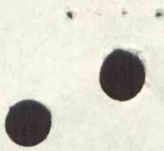
Born 1942 in North Pentecost. Educated at the St John's Kohimarana Theological College in the Solomon Islands and at St John's Theological College in Auckland.

Ordained an Anglican priest in 1970, he was appointed district priest for Longana, East Aoba. He was active in the foundation in 1971 of the New Hebrides Cultural Association, which later became the National Party and is now the Vanuaaku (Government) Party. In 1974 was elected President of the National Party and obtained leave of absence from his church to devote his time to politics. He was elected to the Representative Assembly in 1975. In 1974 and 1976 he appeared before the UN Committee of 24 as a petitioner on behalf of the National Party. As leader of the Vanuaaku Party he was invited in 1978 to join the Government of National Unity, headed by Father Gerard Leymang, as Deputy Chief Minister. Following the victory of the Vanuaaku Party in the November 1979 elections, was appointed Chief Minister, becoming Prime Minister at independence on 30 July 1980.

Though the first among equals, he is scarcely more than a public relations front for the Council of Ministers, some of whom, indeed, have more political clout. Governing by consensus, he is nevertheless much criticised for indecisive leadership. He is all for the quiet life and is essentially pacific in his attitude toward his colleagues who, with only rare exceptions, he regards with a lofty intellectual and moral disdain. Though vacillating, he is not entirely irresolute. He has a streak of obstinacy which, however, tends to manifest itself over lost causes: he is obdurate on matters of no real moment while permitting himself to be overridden on more substantial issues. Lacking in any degree of ruthlessness, he is habitually overruled in Cabinet even though he frequently shows a more enlightened outlook than do his Ministers. He remains in office less by virtue of his own abilities than by the fear that any move to replace him might have consequences disastrous to fragile Cabinet solidarity. His generally pusillanimous performance in office is reflected in his normal deference to the Party, in whose Executive the real power resides. His initiatives sometimes show qualities of statesmanship but these are swiftly extinguished by almost automatic opposition from his colleagues. Under pressure he has frequently threatened to resign, talking of having done his duty and wanting to return to his flock and the simple life. He has flirted with left-brand socialism in the past, tries hard to conceal his francophobia and, despite bitter criticism of us before independence, has come to see Britain as a true friend.

Urbane, often articulate, he has a presence and civilised demeanour denied most of his Ministers. Can exert considerable charm and is socially relaxed. Carries the burdens of office apparently effortlessly. He genuinely cherishes the democratic concept. A dedicated family man, his private life is unimpeachable, and he is thought to be incorruptible, a rare commodity in Melanesia.

Married (to a Solomon Islander) with five children.



Sub
Vanuatu

30 October 1981

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF VANUATU

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 28 October and would be content to receive Father Lini for a courtesy call on Monday 28 November.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

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

orl

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Prime Minister
Would like to see Father Lini
for half an hour?

(1)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 October 1981

Ans Yes ms.

Dear Michael,

Visit of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu

I wrote to you on 16 September to forewarn you that Father Lini would visit London in the latter half of November. We have now been informed that Father Lini will visit London accompanied by his Minister of Finance from 22-27 November. I understand that the Prime Minister may be able to receive Father Lini for a courtesy call at 4.30 on Monday 23 November.

I should be grateful if you would confirm that this call is acceptable. If it is, we shall of course provide a short brief nearer the time.

During his visit to London, Father Lini will call on Lord Carrington and will hold talks with Mr Marten and ODA officials. An official lunch is also being arranged for him.

Yours ever
Rodric Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

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28 OCT 1981
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Prime Minister

To note only

16/9

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 September 1981

Dear Michael,

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Visit of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu

We have been informed that Father Lini, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, intends to visit London during the latter half of November and he has asked for meetings with the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

It seems likely that Father Lini's visit is designed to seek further British aid (budgetary aid talks are due in Port Vila in October) in the event that French aid to Vanuatu is withdrawn.

Until we have exact dates for Father Lini's visit it will clearly not be possible for you to commit the Prime Minister to receive a courtesy call from him. As the Prime Minister will be meeting Father Lini at the CHGM in Melbourne, and as Father Lini's subsequent visit to the UK is not a visit of the highest importance, we would not wish to overstate the case for a call at No 10 Downing Street. But if the Prime Minister had half an hour available during the period of the visit, it would clearly be in the interests of our relations with Vanuatu if a call could be arranged: and this would be an appropriate courtesy for the first visit by the Prime Minister of a newly independent Commonwealth country to the UK. We shall therefore be in touch again when we have further information on dates. In the meantime, before meeting Father Lini in Melbourne, the Prime Minister will wish to be aware of his proposal to visit the UK. We shall therefore be including an appropriate reference to the proposed visit in the briefing for the CHGM.

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

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