

CONFIDENTIAL

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

L03AUS





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 Communiqué 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 : £13 million (£2.3m expenditure  
Capital Aid : 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 (Kanak), 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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II, 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.



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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

Evening

Saturday 22 February

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

Sunday 23 February

0900

1045

1100

Later

1300

Later

Monday 24 February

0945

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.

Free.

LUNCH ENGAGEMENT

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.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Leave hotel by car for Canterbury, Kent.

Arrive at Canterbury Cathedral, South Door.

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

Attend Sung Eucharist.

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

Lunch at the County Hotel, High Street.

Return to London by car.

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

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