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and 120 of the provisional agenda*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS

URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL **TERRORISM** WHICH ENDANGERS
OR TAKES INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES OR **JEOPARDIZES** FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS AND STUDY OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THOSE FORMS
OF TERRORISM AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN MISERY,
FRUSTRATION, GRIEVANCE AND DESPAIR AND WHICH CAUSE SOME
PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE **HUMAN LIVES**, INCLUDING THEIR OWN, IN
AN ATTEMPT TO EFFECT RADICAL **CHANGES**

Letter dated 20 July 1987 from the **Chargé d'affaires a.i.**
of the Permanent Mission of Samoa to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

As current chairman of the South Pacific Forum, my Government has instructed me to forward to you the final communiqué of the eighteenth South Pacific Forum,

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held at Apia on 29 and 30 May 1987 (see annex). I have the honour to request that it be urgently circulated among Member States as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 18, 33, 50, 51, 75, 83, 84, 105 and 128 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Robin MAUALA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Final communiqué of the eighteenth South Pacific Forum, held
at Apia on 29 and 30 May 1987

1. The eighteenth South Pacific Forum **was held at Apia, Western Samoa, on 29 and 30 May 1987.** The Forum was attended **by the Heads of Government** of Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of **Micronesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands,** Nauru, New **Zealand,** Niue, **Papua New Guinea,** Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and **Western Samoa, while Vanuatu was** represented by the Deputy Prime Minister **and Tonga was** represented by its Minister **for** Foreign Affairs and Defence. The Prime Minister of Western Samoa, the Honourable **Va'ai Kolone,** chaired the meeting.
2. The Federated **States** of Micronesia and the Republic of **Marshall Islands** were welcomed as full members of the South Pacific Forum.
3. The Heads of Government **noted and** endorsed the **expression** by **the Chairman** in his opening statement of the deep concern and anguish **that they** felt over recent events involving the overthrow of the elected Government in **Fiji.** **Recognizing** the complexity of the problems in Fiji, they fully **shared** the hopes expressed **by the** Chairman, reflecting as they did the same hopes expressed by the Governor-General of Fiji, for a peaceful and satisfactory solution to the current **problems.** They associated themselves with his expression of willingness to provide **whatever** help they might be able to 'lend.
4. It was agreed that the Chairman would convey to the Governor-General of Fiji the Forum's willingness to help and would **request** the **Governor-General** to indicate to the Forum the forms of **assistance he considered most** appropriate.
5. **As one** form of such help, after detailed informal discussion and contact with Fiji in the course of the meeting, the Heads of Government decided **that,** should the Governor-General of Fiji indicate **that such** a Forum initiative would be constructive and of **assistance,** the Forum would send a mission to Fiji. The Mission would be led by the Prime Minister of Australia **and** would comprise the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands and the Director of the South **Pacific** Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) . Should the Governor-General of **Fiji** deem such a course of action desirable, the **mission** would hold discussions with **all** parties in Fiji with **a** view to attempting to **facilitate** processes leading to a resolution of current problems.
6. Should the Governor-General of Fiji respond **with a request** for assistance additional to that contingently provided **by the Forum** or **different** therefrom, then the Chairman would have **the** responsibility to communicate that request to **the** Heads of Government and the Director would co-ordinate the response.
7. The Heads of Government noted the increasingly complex **environment** in which the Forum was meeting and accordingly **gave** particular attention to **how it** might react most effectively, as the paramount regional organisation, to the challenges now before it and those still to come.

8. They considered that there was urgent need to strengthen the Forum and SPEC in regard to the recognition accorded to both institutions by **other Governments and organisations**. After 17 years, the South Pacific Forum had developed as the paramount political institution in the South Pacific and **steps would be taken to consolidate its position**. The Forum, as part of its response to **these** needs, decided to establish a Committee on **Regional** Institutional Arrangements, which would, inter alia, **look at** ways to increase international recognition of **the Forum** and examine the concept of a **single regional organization and** develop ways to **strengthen the Forum and its secretariat (SPEC)**.

New Caledonia

9. **The Forum** reviewed developments **affecting** New Caledonia **that** had taken place since the Ministerial Committee Meeting on New Caledonia, held at Auckland in March 1987.

10. The Forum once again expressed its firm support for **an** early and peaceful transition to an independent **New Caledonia**, in accordance with the innate and active rights **of** the indigenous people, **and in a manner that** guaranteed the rights and **interests** of all inhabitants **of** this multiracial **society**. The Forum adopted the conclusions of the Auckland **Ministerial** meeting, which sought an act of self-determination offering:

(a) A free, honest and **genuine** choice;

(b) Inclusion in the franchise of only those who can demonstrate long-term residence **in** and commitment to New Caledonia, It should ensure that the rights and interests of all **inhabitants are** guaranteed, **with** special recognition of **Kanak** rights;

(c) All options being open, **including status quo**, integration, internal self-government, associated independence, or **unqualified independence**:

(d) Political education for **the people so that** all options are understood and, **in** particular, so that no options are seen to carry punitive consequences.

11. The **Forum was** particularly **encouraged** by the breadth and depth of support it received **at** the eighth Conference **of** Heads of State or **Government of** the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and at the United **Nations**, where New Caledonia was successfully reinscribed on **the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories**. The **Forum expressed** its gratitude to those **States Members of the United Nations that** had supported General Assembly resolution 41/41 A of 2 December 1986 and particularly to **the 31 States Member co-sponsors of the resolution for reinscription**.

12. The Forum expressed grave disquiet **about the current policies of** the **Government** of France with regard to **New Caledonia**. It noted that France was pressing ahead with a referendum on French terms, in which a significant **proportion** of the indigenous population had proclaimed, through its representative **organization**, the Front de **Libération** National Kanak et **Socialiste (FLNKS)**, that it would take no part. The Forum completely rejected **the** referendum. Under the

circumstances, **such** a referendum would be divisive, futile **and** a recipe for **disaster**. The **Forum** called upon France to abandon its referendum.

13. Noting that the current French Government had based its policies for **the** future of New Caledonia on **the** referendum and **that that** referendum would now **be an** empty exercise, the Forum questioned what step⁶ France **then intended** to pursue.

14. Stating that New Caledonia represented a continuing and compelling **concern** for the **South Pacific region**, the Forum emphasized its commitment to dialogue and expressed its wish to send a Forum delegation to **New Caledonia** to discuss **the** situation with all parties. It **also** indicated its strong interest in discussing **the** issue with France in Paris and **stood** ready to dispatch a delegation **for that purpose**, should France be genuinely **interested** in a dialogue to **achieve** a peaceful resolution. The Forum reaffirmed its 1986 decision that **the** Forum Chairman was authorized to enter into a dialogue **on** its behalf with the FLNKS to further that process.

15. The Forum **also** called upon the United **Nation⁶** Special **Committee on decolonization** to recommend to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a United Nations-sponsored referendum in New **Caledonia** consistent with the universally accepted principles and practices of self-determination and independence,

1b. The Forum called **upon the South Pacific Games Council** to change the **venue** of the South Pacific **Games** scheduled to **be** held in New Caledonia **in** December 1987 **in** the interest⁶ of the safety **and** welfare of **participating** athletes.

Regional security concern⁶

Exchange of information on international development⁶ affecting the security of the region

17. The Forum **agreed** to establish a **system** of **information** exchange in order to improve the volume, relevance and **timeliness of such exchanges between** Forum countries **on** international development⁶ **affecting** regional security. In addition to covering **matters affecting** national security **and** defence, the Forum also decided **that** developments **affecting the** economic security of the region **should be** monitored and included in the system for increased **exchange** of information. It **recognized that** economic deprivation was inimical to **security**, particularly in small States. **As** part of the **system** for enhancing information exchange, an **initial** meeting of officials would **be** held **in late** 1987.

Terrorism and hijacking

18. **In light** Of the recent attempted hijacking of **an Air New Zealand** aircraft **the** Forum agreed that a regional response to terrorism was appropriate **to counter** **its** emerging threat. It decided **to establish** a working group to examine the issue and develop ways to **enhance the** capacity of the Forum States to counter terrorism and hijacking.

Nuclear issuesSouth Pacific Nuclear-Free-Zone Treaty

19. The Forum welcomed **Solomon** Islands as the eleventh signatory to **the South Pacific Nuclear-Free-Zone Treaty** when its Prime Minister, the Honourable **Ezekiel** Alebua, signed the Treaty during the Forum meeting. It noted that the Treaty had entered into force **on 11 December 1986** and **that the number** of parties to it **now** totalled nine.

20. While deeply appreciating **that the People's Republic** of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) had signed Protocols 2 and 3 of the Treaty, **the** Forum expressed disappointment that the **Sc,iet** Union had made **an** imprecise **statement** concerning its **interpretation** of **the** Treaty. It called upon the USSR not to enter **any** reservations or **statement** of interpretation when it ratified **the** Protocols.

21. The Forum also expressed disappointment that, while both the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had indicated their willingness to abide informally **by the provisions** of the Treaty and its Protocols, they had nevertheless refrained from signing them. The Forum called **upon both these nuclear-weapon States** and France to sign the Protocols.

22. **The** Forum expressed its profound **concern** that **France** continued to test nuclear devices in **the South Pacific** and called for this to cease,

South Pacific Regional Environment Protection Convention

23. The Forum **welcomed** the conclusion of the South Pacific Regional Environment Protection Convention at **Noumea** in November 1986. It **noted** that, **by the time of the Forum**, nine countries had signed and one had ratified the Convention and its Protocols. It called **upon** all **eligible countries** to join the Convention **as early** as possible.

Regional fisheries

24. The Forum **welcomed** the **conclusion** of negotiations on the Multilateral **Fisheries** Treaty **with** the United **States** of America and the signing of that Treaty **by countries** at Port Moresby on 2 April 1987. The **Forum** noted with satisfaction **that** Niue and Vanuatu had **become** the thirteenth and fourteenth signatories during the course of the Forum **meeting**. It enjoined signatories to ratify the Treaty as early as possible to enable the substantial benefits **arising** from the implementation of the Treaty to **become** available to **Forum** countries,

25. The Forum **also** endorsed the adoption **by** *Forum* States of a regional Or subregional approach to fisheries negotiations with the Government of **Japan** as a matter of priority. It requested the Director of the Forum Fisher **ies** Agency to pursue this issue.

26. The Forum condemned in the strongest possible terms **the** continued illegal fishing activities of United **States** **purse** seiners and other foreign fishing **vessels**

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within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZs) of its member States. In this context, it welcomed new initiatives by Australia and New Zealand in association with the Forum Fisheries Agency to improve regional surveillance capabilities.

27. It congratulated the Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency, Mr. Philipp Muller, on his reappointment.

Japan

28. The Forum welcomed progress in the dialogue with Japan, including the visit by the Japanese Foreign Minister to the South Pacific in January 1987 and his announcement of a 2 million-dollar special fund for Pacific islands. The Forum also requested Japan to regard SPC as a conduit for regional funds and to adapt its aid procedures to meet the special needs of the South Pacific. The Forum also expressed its hope that Japan would be able to substantially expand its development assistance to the region.

Economic issues

29. The Forum reviewed regional economic issues. Due to the fragility of the economies of some of its member States, it decided that economic issues required regular consideration at the Head-of-Government level. It noted that the secretariat was examining the concept of Pacific closer economic relations which would enable a wide range of options for regional economic co-operation to be evaluated. It decided to consider these issues further at the 1988 Forum.

Smaller island countries

30. The Forum reaffirmed its support for the special measures to be taken to assist in the development of those of its member States classified as smaller island countries. It welcomed the establishment of a smaller island countries funding facility to be administered by SPC, noting contributions by New Zealand and Australia and in particular New Zealand's contribution of \$NZ 250,000 per year for the next three years. It also recognized that special support to smaller island countries went beyond an increased availability of funds. A reappraisal and change in approach and attitude, by other countries and organizations in all aspects of their relationship with smaller island countries, was required. It urged all aid donors to bear in mind the very special needs of its most disadvantaged members.

Trade in agricultural commodities

31. The Forum expressed concern at foreshadowed trade restrictions on vegetable-oil imports from African, Caribbean and Pacific States by the European Economic Community (EEC). It called upon EEC not to impose restrictions, particularly since coconut products played such a vital role in the economies of the Forum island countries. It supported the representations of the Cairns Group of Fair Traders to achieve more equitable international trading practices in agricultural products and called upon the majors to accept that their international trading practices and protectionist policies had highly dangerous political as well as economic ramifications that could lead to instability.

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32. The **Forum** also **recognized the** need for a regional approach to the identification of long-term **uses** of the coconut tree, **given the** likelihood that **the price for copra** was likely to continue to be **weak** for the foreseeable future.

Telecommunications

33. The Forum **expressed** its **disappointment** that the World **Bank** appeared unwilling to provide funds to all Forum island countries to **assist in the** implementation of the **South Pacific Telecommunications** Development Programme. It called upon the World Bank to review its decision in cognizance of the extremely valuable contribution it could make to funding **infrastructural telecommunication** development in the region.

South Africa

34. The Forum noted the unprecedented turmoil in **South Africa** arising directly out of the abhorrent policies of apartheid and the elections of 6 May, which moved South Africa to an **even** more extreme position, and expressed its unanimous concern at the worsening situation. It voiced its support for the front-line States in **South Africa**. Noting **that the** refusal of the **South African** Government to enter into a **dialogue** was the primary obstacle to a peaceful future for all **the** people of **South Africa**, the Forum hoped that it was still not too late for a just **solution** to be found.

Australian bicentennial

35. The Forum noted that 1988 would mark the Australian bicentennial and noted the invitation by the Australian Prime Minister to **Forum countries** to participate in these celebrations, including EXPO '88, as well as other events in Australia, for example, the Festival of South Pacific Arts.

Nineteenth South Pacific Forum

36. The Forum welcomed with pleasure the offer of the Kingdom of **Tonga** to host the nineteenth Forum in 1988.