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Letter dated 18 September 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the South Pacific Forum countries, represented at the United Nations, I am pleased to forward herewith the official communiqué signed by all Heads of Government of the South Pacific Forum at Madang, Papua New Guinea, on 15 September 1995.

I request that this communiqué be widely disseminated to the general membership of the United Nations as a document of the General Assembly during this historic fiftieth session, under agenda items 29, 39, 47, 65, 70, 90, 94, 95, 96, 97, 100 and 112.

(Signed) Max H. RAI
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Communiqué of the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at
Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 3 to 15 September 1995

1. The Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum was held at Madang from 13 to 15 September 1995, and was attended by Heads of State and Government, or their representatives, of Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

2. The Forum thanked the people and the Government of Papua New Guinea for the generous hospitality provided to all delegations to the Forum. It welcomed Palau by acclamation as its sixteenth member, and invited Palau to accede to the Forum Secretariat Agreement. The Forum also extended warm congratulations and good wishes to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the country's independence. The Forum expressed its deep appreciation to the outgoing Chairman for his excellent leadership.

Securing development beyond 2000

3. The Forum's considerations focused on the theme "Securing development beyond 2000", and leaders adopted a Plan of Action (appendix I) for implementation, following valuable informal discussions at their retreat. The Plan of Action gives close consideration to a wide range of strategies, recognizing that security involves strengthening national and regional relations, especially capacities to sustain development in the medium and long term, as well as regional stability.

Vision statement

4. The leaders adopted the South Pacific Forum Vision Statement (appendix II), presented by the Chair of the Forum and Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, setting out a vision for enhancing regional cooperation over the next quarter century. The Forum believed this statement sets out clear visionary but achievable goals, based on its members' many shared interests and building on the Forum's tradition of close regional consultation, which would significantly strengthen the region's capacity to adapt to a rapidly changing international and regional environment.

Nuclear testing

5. Forum leaders issued a statement (appendix III) expressing their extreme outrage at the resumption of French nuclear testing in the Pacific. They again demanded that France desist from any further tests. The outrage of Forum member countries was so much the greater because of the intransigence of France, together with the People's Republic of China, in persisting with their nuclear tests in the face of the strong views of the Pacific region. The Forum endorsed the Lakatoro Declaration by the Melanesian Spearhead Group, and the Declaration by the South Pacific Environment Ministers Meeting, held in August 1995.

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Development

6. The Forum welcomed progress in the issues to which leaders had committed themselves at the 1994 Brisbane Forum.

Regional air services

7. Leaders noted the positive developments which had taken place in aviation in the region since the 1994 Forum, especially the steps taken to stem the substantial losses being incurred by some airlines. They endorsed the outcome of the Joint Meeting of Aviation Authorities and Operators, and the recommendations of ministers responsible for aviation meeting at the South Pacific Regional Civil Aviation Council. Leaders considered that these recommendations provided an appropriate framework within which Governments and airlines could work together, both at a national level and regionally, to improve further the performance of the aviation industry in supporting national economic development and social needs in the South Pacific. They noted concerns that raising capital for equipment purchases would be a crucial problem, and supported representations, especially by the recently formed regional subgrouping of Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Marshall Islands, being made to the Asian Development Bank to change its policies to allow it to finance aircraft purchases, as it already financed other transportation infrastructure development.

8. Leaders agreed to convene a meeting of regional ministers of civil aviation, aviation authorities, airline representatives and other related experts at Rarotonga in early 1996 to advance through cooperative initiatives the further development of civil aviation services throughout the Forum region. Leaders expressed their appreciation for the report on rationalization of air services in the South Pacific, and of the work of the Association of South Pacific Airlines for its positive support in developing that framework.

Fisheries

9. The Forum welcomed and noted the significance of the adoption at New York on 4 August 1995 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United National Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and urged all interested States to become parties to the Agreement as soon as possible.

10. The Forum expressed its appreciation for the outstanding work of the United Nations Conference Chairman, Mr. Sarya N. Nandan (Fiji), in bringing the Conference to a successful conclusion with the adoption by consensus of the Agreement. The Forum also expressed its appreciation to the Forum Fisheries Agency for its work in coordinating and formulating the regional input to the United Nations Conference discussions.

11. In the light of the outcome of the United Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the Forum considered that comprehensive regional fisheries management arrangements, and a structure consistent with the Conference outcome to administer them, should be developed as a matter of

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urgency. The Forum registered its view that those management arrangements must be based on a precautionary approach to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the regions's valuable tuna resources.

12. Forum leaders noted significant progress in the implementation of regional fisheries commitments over the last year, including the conclusion of the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement for Regional Fisheries Access; the region's significant contribution to the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; work to develop comprehensive regional fisheries management arrangements; progress in the pursuit of multilateral fisheries access arrangements; and progress in the development of the regional Vessel Monitoring System.

13. The Forum supported continued efforts to conclude additional multilateral fishing agreements with Distant Water Fishing Nations, ensuring that in doing so no member country would be made worse off than it was under its existing bilateral fishing agreements.

Law of the sea

14. The Forum urged all Forum member countries to become parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at the earliest opportunity.

Forestry

15. Forum members endorsed the draft code of conduct on logging and committed themselves to implementation of its provisions as part of their national codes.

Shipping

16. The Forum accepted the recommendations of the Regional Shipping Council regarding the future management and operations of the Pacific Forum Line.

Tourism

17. The Forum noted that the South Pacific lay at the centre of one of the most rapidly growing tourism networks in the world. Leaders agreed, therefore, to direct their respective tourism authorities to explore options for increasing joint promotions, both within and beyond the region. In particular, they will examine transport needs, including national facilities and international links, as well as needs - and openings for investment - in relation to accommodation.

Economic policy issues

18. The Forum supported a number of national policy measures and regionally based activities which would contribute to the aim of securing development beyond 2000. These included:

(a) Securing the potential benefits of globalization by enhancing competitiveness through promoting price stability (low inflation); avoiding artificial distortions to the prices of domestic resources (land, labour, capital); reducing trade taxes and import duties, which adversely affect export

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competitiveness; and removing implicit and explicit barriers to foreign direct investment;

(b) Adopting and implementing the investment principles agreed to by members of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), as a signal to potential investors of the region's serious intentions to promote and encourage foreign direct investment;

(c) Working towards implementation of trade reform measures as required by GATT/World Trade Organization, including by replacing non-tariff barriers with tariffs, and setting a time-frame for minimizing tariff levels;

(d) Promoting trade both within and outside the region by harmonizing and standardizing administrative procedures in the areas of customs and quarantine, labelling and packaging, phytosanitary and other sanitary requirements, export/import controls, exchange controls and technical standards;

(e) Improving public sector efficiency and cost-effectiveness by rationalization of public services; attention to policy coherence and commitment to the principle of good governance; and strengthening cooperative relationships between government ministries and agencies;

(f) Improving aid management and regional cooperation by endorsing the proposed regional strategy;

(g) Recognizing the valuable contribution of the agricultural sector to domestic food security, export development, incomes and employment and the need for positive measures in support of agricultural development, including minimizing price distortions and promoting agricultural research and information dissemination, for both marketable and subsistence crops;

(h) Enhancing development by the adoption and maintenance of appropriate and sustainable fiscal policy settings;

(i) Placing greater emphasis on population management strategies as a fundamental way of accelerating development;

(j) Ensuring that development strategies place appropriate emphasis on the promotion of outer island and remote community development.

19. The Forum noted that a continuing concern for the countries of the region was that flows of economic assistance, bilaterally and multilaterally, were reaching a ceiling, with many donors reducing assistance or diverting it to economies outside the region. It urged the donor community not to forget the needs of the Pacific region. In this context the Forum appreciated the continuing increase in Japanese assistance. At the same time, it also urged Japan to give favourable consideration to rendering assistance to a wider range of regional organizations, especially of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) programmes which were of central importance to the sustainable development prospects of Pacific island countries.

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Forum finance ministers meeting

20. Forum leaders welcomed the outcome of the Forum finance ministers meeting in 1995. They agreed that finance ministers should meet again at Port Moresby in December 1995 to develop further that outcome.

Representative office, Tokyo

21. The Forum expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan for providing funding assistance for the recently completed feasibility study on the establishment of the South Pacific Economic Exchange Support Centre in Tokyo to promote trade, investment and tourism between Japan and the Forum island countries, and strongly reaffirmed its commitment to the Centre. It looked forward to a positive decision on support for the Centre from Japan in the context of its 1996 budget. The Forum agreed also to approach similarly other Governments and international organizations for assistance in mounting regional promotions, including permanent South Pacific trade commissions, in East Asia, Europe and North America.

Social issues

Participation in international conferences

22. The Forum noted with satisfaction the significant contribution made by Pacific Island countries to the outcome of the recent international conferences on population and development, social development and women. It encouraged regional efforts to integrate population and environment concerns. The Forum also lent formal support for the World Food Summit to be convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 1996.

Pacific children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child

23. The Forum restated its support for the welfare of Pacific children and encouraged Pacific island countries which had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Forum noted the Pacific Culture of Peace Festival for Children which had been hosted by the Cook Islands and sponsored by UNESCO, sharing the sentiments expressed in the children's appeal to world leaders on children's rights, peace and the environment.

Environmental issues

Climate change

24. The Forum reaffirmed the importance of climate change to the region, recognizing the threat posed to Forum island countries. It welcomed the outcome of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held at Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995, the early commencement of negotiations aimed at strengthening the Convention and the inclusion of the draft protocol of the Alliance of Small Island States for consideration in the negotiating process. The Forum stressed the priority that should be given to programmes in support of the objectives of the Framework Convention, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, enhancement of

sinks, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and research assisting countries to meet their obligations under the Convention.

Global Environment Facility

25. The Forum endorsed the draft Pacific Strategy for accessing Funds of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It called on GEF in particular to support activities that would enable countries to implement the Framework Convention and plan for adaptation to climate change. The Forum commended a preliminary portfolio of projects to GEF for its support.

Barbados Programme of Action

26. The Forum called on all members, development partners, the United Nations system and regional organizations to participate actively in the regional consultative mechanism, including through the provision of necessary information to SPREP and the Pacific Operations Centre of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and to work in cooperation with the mechanism's advisory committee.

Biodiversity

27. The Forum reiterated the importance of the Biodiversity Convention. It called on all members to become parties to the Convention and to participate to the fullest possible extent in the meetings of the contracting parties to the Convention. The Forum supported international action to develop a framework on biosafety and to consider the need for, and modalities of, a protocol on biosafety taking into account the specific needs and circumstances of small island developing States. The Forum commended the work programme on marine biodiversity as being in the strong interest of Forum members.

28. The Forum recorded its support for the initiative taken under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to facilitate the involvement in and accession to the Convention of small island States, and urged members to consider accession. Leaders commended the successful SPREP campaign for the Year of the Sea Turtle (1995). It called upon members to extend the moratoria established on commercial takes of sea turtles, and support conservation projects building on the awareness created by the Year of the Sea Turtle campaign.

International Coral Reef Initiative

29. The Forum encouraged member Governments to endorse the call to action of the International Coral Reef Initiative and to develop national efforts to develop the framework for action of that Initiative.

Coastal Protection Action Plan

30. The Forum agreed to give serious consideration to the Action Plan on Coastal Protection.

Ocean issues

31. The Forum reiterated the importance of the oceans to its members and expressed its support for efforts to protect the oceans from land-based and other sources of pollution. The Forum noted that an intergovernmental conference to be held in Washington, D.C., in October 1995 is to consider a global programme of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities.

Hazardous and radioactive wastes

32. The Forum adopted the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention) for signature on 16 September 1995. The Convention was an important milestone in banning the importation of all hazardous and radioactive wastes from outside the Convention area to Pacific island developing States parties, and ensuring that any transboundary movements of hazardous wastes within the Convention area were completed in a controlled and environmentally sound manner. The Forum thanked the working group of officials and the secretariat for the intensive work put into completing the Convention since the 1994 Forum. The Forum urged all members to sign and ratify the Convention expeditiously to bring it into effect as soon as possible, in accordance with their national processes.

33. The Forum recalled in this context its continuing opposition to dumping of radioactive waste at sea and called for universal adherence to the prohibition of this practice by the London Convention of 1972. It reiterated its support for the London Convention and the need for its effective enforcement.

34. The Forum expressed the region's continuing concerns about the Johnson Atoll Chemical Agent Destruction System, reiterating its consistent past position that the facility should be permanently closed when the current programme of chemical weapons and agent destruction was completed.

Political and security issues

New Caledonia

35. The Forum noted that, while implementation of the Matignon Accords had continued smoothly and generally positively in the past 12 months, the territory's long-term political and constitutional future remained uncertain. The Forum felt that, as the count-down to the 1998 referendum began in earnest, regional monitoring of the situation should be stepped up. This included reactivating, in cooperation with the French authorities, the Forum's Ministerial Committee on New Caledonia. The Forum reiterated its view that the 1998 referendum should closely follow accepted United Nations principles and practices.

36. The Forum reaffirmed its support for continuing contacts with New Caledonia as a constructive contribution towards the Matignon process. It noted the

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particular role of the Kanak Training Fund in this, and the Fund's continuing successful operation.

Law enforcement cooperation

37. The Forum commended the continued progress in implementation of the Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement, and the developing Secretariat programme in the area. It expressed appreciation for the cooperation in this programme of specialist regional law enforcement agencies. The Forum noted in particular the process of modernizing extradition laws in the region, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Islands Law Officers Meeting, on the basis of a set of principles agreed by officials.

Other nuclear issues

38. The Forum expressed continuing concern about shipments of plutonium and radioactive wastes through the region. It noted with appreciation the cooperation of Japan in responding to the Forum's concerns by the provision of information on, and consultation about, the shipments. It reiterated, however, the expectation that such shipments should be carried out in accordance with the highest international safety and security standards, in a manner which satisfactorily addressed all possible contingencies, and in full consultation with Forum countries.

39. The Forum welcomed the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties in May 1995, as achieving a long standing Forum objective. It urged all non-signatories to the Treaty to accept the Treaty as soon as possible. It also urged the nuclear Powers to focus on meeting without delay their obligation under the Treaty to negotiate in good faith towards complete nuclear disarmament.

40. The Forum noted that an advisory opinion would soon be delivered by the International Court of Justice on the legality of nuclear weapons.

41. The Forum noted developments on civil nuclear liability and called on the Standing Committee on Nuclear Liability of the International Atomic Energy Agency to conclude promptly a civil nuclear liability regime by the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

42. The Forum expressed its support for the establishment of a credible civil nuclear liability regime including adequate compensation for the victims of transboundary damage in accordance with the principles of the Rio Declaration by incorporating a dedicated transboundary fund of sufficient size. The Forum also believed that such a regime must be capable of attracting widespread adherence from both nuclear and non-nuclear-power generating States throughout the world. The Forum noted that, consistent with the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region, it was important that such a regime incorporate environmental damage within its scope.

Rehabilitation of former nuclear-weapon-test sites

43. The Forum welcomed the increased attention to problems of safety and contamination related to the discontinuation of nuclear operations formerly associated with nuclear-weapon programmes. The Forum called upon all Governments and international organizations that had expertise in the field of clean-up and disposal of radioactive contaminants to give appropriate assistance for remedial purposes when requested by affected countries. The Forum noted that, although some efforts had already been made in this regard, there was still considerable work to be done. The Forum also noted the existence of a special responsibility towards those peoples of the former United Nations Trust Territory administered by the United States, the Marshall Islands, who had been adversely affected as a result of nuclear-weapon tests conducted during the period of the Trusteeship. This responsibility included safe resettlement of displaced human populations and the restoration to economic productivity of affected areas.

Relations with the United Nations

44. The Forum expressed its deep appreciation to the United Nations General Assembly for granting it observer status. It also expressed its appreciation to the Forum secretariat and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission group of Forum country missions in New York for the commendable cooperation they had developed to give substance to the observer role. The Forum, acknowledging the growing importance of the United Nations in this, its fiftieth anniversary year, encouraged Forum members not also members of the United Nations, and other regional organizations to make use of the channel for the region into the United Nations provided by observer status.

45. The Forum reconfirmed its unanimous support, declared at the 1994 Brisbane Forum, for the candidature of Australia for the United Nations Security Council for the two-year term 1997-1998, at elections to be held in October 1996.

46. The Forum asked its members to consider the candidacy of Japan for a seat on the Security Council for the two-year term 1997-1998. In view of the mutual support arrangement between Australia and Sweden, the Forum also asked its members to consider the candidacy of Sweden for the seat of the Western European and Other States on the Security Council for the same period.

Relations with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

47. The Forum was encouraged by the developing contacts between the Forum and ASEAN secretariats, which were important in strengthening the overall relationship between the two regions. It reiterated the importance of strengthening these links and noted that the Secretary-General would be exploring with his ASEAN counterpart the possibility of a ministerial meeting with ASEAN in 1996 on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.

Relations with Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (APEC)

48. The Forum recognized the importance of APEC and noted that its status as an observer was a valuable basis for strengthening its relations with that

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organization. It considered that the Forum secretariat had a key role to play in keeping Forum island countries informed about APEC activities and processes of relevance to them.

Forum country initiatives

Assembly of Pacific island communities

49. The Forum noted the Melanesian Spearhead Group proposal for an assembly of Pacific island communities and encouraged the Pacific island countries and territories to consider the proposal further.

Institutional matters

Post-Forum dialogue

50. The Forum welcomed the Republic of Korea as a post-Forum dialogue partner, to participate for the first time in the dialogue at Port Moresby, on 17 and 18 September. This reflected the growing importance of the dialogue, and the interest which Forum countries had in strengthening relations with the Republic of Korea, an increasingly significant economic and political presence in the region.

Forum secretariat-wide review

51. The Forum endorsed the key recommendations of the Forum secretariat-wide review regarding the strengthening of the policy role of the secretariat, enhancing regional coordination and review through the South Pacific Organizations Coordinating Committee mechanism, and assisting member countries to develop their own capacity for economic and sectoral policy development, implementation and evaluation. The Forum also supported a rationalization of the divisional structure appropriate to servicing this redefined mandate.

Name change

52. The Forum noted that, with the admission of Palau, there was merit in considering renaming the organization.

PIBA/PINA

53. The Forum noted that officials had discussed the useful work done by the Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association (PIBA) and the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) and that PIBA and PINA had been encouraged to develop their work programmes, working closely with the Forum secretariat.

Reports of regional organizations

54. The Forum received and adopted the annual report of the Secretary-General of the Forum secretariat. It also received with appreciation the annual reports of the following:

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- (a) Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency;
- (b) Director of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission;
- (c) Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific;
- (d) Director of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
- (e) Director of the Tourism Council of the South Pacific.

Date and venue of next meeting

55. The Forum reaffirmed its appreciation and acceptance of the kind offer of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to host the Twenty-seventh South Pacific Forum. The date for the Forum would be finalized by the Republic of the Marshall Islands in consultation with the Secretariat.

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APPENDIX I

Securing development beyond 2000

Plan of action adopted by the Twenty-sixth
South Pacific Forum

1. The Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, which met at Madang from 13 to 15 September 1995, gave close consideration to a wide range of strategies for securing development beyond the year 2000. In doing so, it recognized that security involves strengthening national and regional relations, especially capacities to sustain development in the medium and long terms, as well as regional stability.
2. Specific measure to which the Forum has agreed to give prompt attention are listed below. They include the endorsement of a logging code of conduct, measures to cooperate in promoting trade, transport and tourism and an examination of how the Forum might enhance regional support arrangements. Other measures may be added by agreement as those listed are put into effect, further consideration is given to related issues, and additional strategies are devised for strengthening cooperation in securing development beyond 2000.

Increasing economic cooperation

3. Forum members are conscious of the changes in international economic relations consequent on the formation of the World Trade Organization and likely to follow from the agreement by members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum to lower tariffs in the wider Asia-Pacific region. They are also aware of the increasing opportunities for mutually beneficial interaction arising from development in Forum member countries, and keen to cooperate in putting them to mutual advantage. They have, therefore, agreed to review existing patterns of trade, investment and other aspects of regional economic relations with a view to broadening, deepening and diversifying regional economic cooperation.
4. Issues to which they believe that particular attention should be given include strategies for increasing national and regional competitiveness by cooperating in reducing both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in the region, drawing on experience with other regional and subregional arrangements and consistent with the principles of the World Trade Organization. The implications of - and for - taxation regimes, exchange rates, transport arrangements and labour costs should be carefully examined. Niche markets should be identified and developed. Quarantine requirements should be clarified in purpose, scope and application and, as far as possible, standardized.
5. Opportunities for enhancing regional cooperation in respect of standards, product identification and consumer protection should be explored, particularly in so far as national institutions might help to achieve economies of scale by performing regional roles.

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6. The South Pacific Forum secretariat will identify practical options, and submit them for consideration by the Forum Officials Committee, which will recommend a plan of action to enhance regional economic cooperation for discussion at the Twenty-seventh South Pacific Forum.

7. Individual Forum members will seek funding, from domestic and/or other sources, to assist in promoting regional economic cooperation, including shop-front facilities to publicize products exported from and investment possibilities in other Forum member countries.

8. Forum members will approach other Governments and international organizations for assistance in mounting regional promotions, including permanent South Pacific trade commissions, in East Asia, Europe and North America.

9. Aware of the difficulties often involved in travelling or moving goods within the region, Forum members have agreed that their ministers responsible for transport, including shipping and civil aviation, should meet in order to discuss common problems and to identify areas where enhanced cooperation might provide solutions. The formation of strategic alliances between services providers is an option which they believe is especially worthy of close attention.

10. Particular issues and options which they believe that relevant authorities should consider carefully include the economies that might be achieved by sharing aircraft; the manner in which travel and trade might be facilitated by coordinating airline and shipping schedules; the designation of additional regional and subregional hubs; and the advantages of jointly promoting links into, within and out of the region.

11. The need for additional facilities, including accommodation, at prospective stopovers and destinations will also be examined.

12. The South Pacific lies at the centre of one of the most rapidly growing tourism networks in the world. The region has much to offer to potential visitors in search of natural beauty, cultural spectacle and diversity, and recreation, including rest, sport and adventure.

13. Individual countries have priorities of their own, especially in trying to balance the kinds and numbers of tourists they seek with maintaining cultural integrity and environmental conservation. Together, they can offer a great deal to visitors from within the region or beyond, including distinctive cultural experiences.

14. Forum members have, therefore, agreed to direct their respective tourism authorities to explore options for increasing joint promotions, both within and beyond the region. In particular, they will examine transport needs, including national facilities and international links, as well as needs - and openings for investment - in relation to accommodation.

15. Their overall aim will be to encourage everyone concerned with the industry's future to take a long-term view; to ensure that visitors are made

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welcome by local communities (which should benefit from their presence) and to see that tourists get genuine value for the money they spend. Issues like seasonality should also be addressed.

16. Expert bodies like the Tourism Council of the South Pacific and the Pacific Area Travel Association will be invited to give advice.

17. The Forum agrees that the various measures outlined in this Plan for promoting regional cooperation in trade, transport and tourism should be implemented without delay.

18. The Forum agreed that its Chairman convene or ensure meetings are convened of relevant Ministers during the next 12 months to implement this Plan, and that the Twenty-seventh South Pacific Forum should review progress made in securing development beyond 2000 through enhancing regional economic cooperation.

Logging code of conduct

19. Forum members endorsed the draft regional code of conduct on logging and committed themselves to implementation of its provisions as part of their national codes.

Regional support arrangements

20. Having considered possible threats and existing arrangements, Forum members have agreed that the most serious threats that the region seems likely to have to face in the future are not military in nature but may include challenges to national integrity and independence, environmental damage and national disasters. The Forum, therefore, agreed to examine a comprehensive approach towards security and to broaden and deepen cooperation accordingly.

21. The Forum Officials Committee has, therefore, been directed to report back to the Twenty-seventh South Pacific Forum with detailed proposals for arrangements designed to ensure that the region can consult promptly in response to legitimate requests, and provide such assistance as may be agreed in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner.

22. The arrangements must be consistent with - and supportive of - other arrangements for regional cooperation, while avoiding waste and duplication.

23. Issues to be addressed in the report of the Committee will include a mechanism providing for consultations between regular, annual Forum meetings; procedures for facilitating cooperation through appropriate preparations in respect of training logistics, and control of agreed operations; as well as the legal safeguards required.

APPENDIX II

South Pacific Forum Vision Statement

Issued at Madang, Papua New Guinea, on 14 September 1995

The leaders who have participated in the 26th meeting of the South Pacific Forum, the paramount regional intergovernmental organization in the South Pacific, have a vision for enhancing regional cooperation for the next 25 years in which:

Forum members cooperate on the basis of equality, friendship and mutual respect - with due regard for what each can afford - in efforts to maintain security, improve living standards and ensure sustainable development throughout the region;

Opportunities for cooperation with other Governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations, including other bodies in the Asia-Pacific region, are actively pursued and developed;

Resources, including fisheries, forestry, minerals, water and land, are developed with proper regard for conservation, the legacy of past generations and the future;

Unity in securing shared interests contributes to the national, regional and global good;

Material progress is matched by improvement in the quality of people's lives, including human development, equality between women and men, and protection of children;

Vulnerability to the effects of natural disasters, environmental damage and other threats will be overcome;

Indigenous and other values, traditions and customs of the region are respected and promoted through cultural, sporting and other exchanges;

Self-determination will be exercised in the remaining dependent territories, and unwelcome activities by external Powers, including nuclear testing, will cease;

International economic cooperation, through trade, investment and other exchanges, strengthens subsistence and commercial agriculture, industry development and competition, leading to growth - with equity, broadly-based participation and capacity-building for self-reliance;

Openness, accountability and other principles of good government are embodied in the practices, policies and plans of regional institutions; and

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National, subregional and regional efforts to achieve the Forum's vision receive the support they require from the Forum secretariat and other regional organizations.

APPENDIX III

Forum leaders' statement on nuclear testing

Leaders express their extreme outrage at the resumption of French nuclear testing in the Pacific. Forum leaders again demand that France desist from any further tests in the region and call on other countries also to seek to persuade France to cease testing.

The Forum also notes that the painful memories resulting from nuclear testing conducted in the region a half-century ago still haunt many people in the region.

Should France continue its testing in the Pacific, the Forum will review France's status as a post-Forum dialogue partner.

The outrage of Forum members countries is so much the greater because of the intransigence of France, together with the People's Republic of China, in persisting with their nuclear tests in the face of not only the strong views of the Pacific region, but also the appeal of the ASEAN regional forum, and the world-wide sentiment against testing.

The decisions by the Governments of France and the People's Republic of China to continue testing are completely contrary to the undertaking on 11 May 1995 at the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to exercise "utmost restraint" in nuclear testing pending the completion of negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty that would ban nuclear tests for all time.

The conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty is an objective of the highest importance for the international community. Leaders therefore welcome the recent announcements of the United States of America and France to support a truly comprehensive test-ban treaty. They call on all members of the international community, and especially the nuclear weapon States, to spare no effort to ensure the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty no later than 1996.

In the spirit of this renewed emphasis on global disarmament, leaders call on France to sign and ratify the protocols of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. They urge the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to do likewise, noting that the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation have already signed the protocols.

The decision of the Government of Vanuatu to sign the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty at the Forum is warmly welcomed.

The Forum will continue to oppose nuclear testing at every opportunity, including at the United Nations General Assembly.

Leaders commend the efforts commenced by the Forum delegation to Paris in June. They thank the Forum Regional Action Committee for its work in supporting

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the activities of Forum Governments and endorse the report of its activities presented to the Forum.

Leaders welcome New Zealand's action to resume its 1973 International Court of Justice case against French nuclear testing and its environmental effects in the Pacific and commend the action of Forum members seeking to intervene in the proceedings to support New Zealand's request to the Court.

Leaders reiterate the call by the Melanesian Spearhead Group leaders through the Lakatoro Declaration and by the South Pacific Environment Ministers Meeting in August 1995 for France to close its nuclear testing facilities in the Pacific, except as required for environmental monitoring; to accept full and exclusive responsibility for any adverse impacts from French testing on the Pacific environment and people; and to provide access to the international community to all the scientific data it holds to the testing sites themselves to make possible an independent and comprehensive assessment of the risks involved.

Finally, Forum leaders express their sincere appreciation to people from the region and around the world who have offered their support and their voice to the campaign against nuclear testing. They renew their undertaking to take all possible steps to stop nuclear testing and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
