

Will check re All the Cases

Editorial

Looking Towards PNG....

As Guam—and the other islands of the "American Pacific" look ahead towards political status changes, more self determination, more autonomy, it seems strange to realize that we can look towards a very unlikely place for expert guidance.

That would be Papua New Guinea, who moved into complete self government last month, and will move into full independence sometime in late 1974. There were no flags flying, no bands playing, even the hotel bars were closed in Port Moresby for three days to hold down the celebration. Chief Minister Michael Somare decided to defer ceremonies until the day of full independence.

In theory PNG has been preparing for self-government since the elections of 1964, the year of the first House of Assembly, so the transition should, in theory, be smooth. But, despite all the planning, there has been a few hectic weeks during the monumental change over of government.

It will be a revelation to the people of Guam, and of all the islands of the Pacific to see if Papua New Guinea can pull off this independence, that was more or less forced upon them by Australia, who decided they didn't want to be a colonial power anymore. We will assume the U.S. government will come around to that same realization after another 10 years or so.

Both the Australia Parliament and the PNG House of Assembly have passed a wide variety of acts and ordinances covering the transfer of powers. Already, on Nov. 1, Air Niugini made its appearance as PNG's own domestic airline. On that date also the Australian Banking Act, and the reserve Bank Act, ceased to extend to PNG, thus enabling PNG to pass its own banking laws. On Dec. 1, the administrator ceased to hold that office, and was appointed High Commissioner, assuming most of the powers held by the Minister of External Territories. During this period, this Australian administrator will assist with the transfer of power. The PNG National Broadcasting Commission also came into existence.

Nobody has yet made any firm announcement on the exact date of PNG independence, as the transition of power takes place, but the general prediction is that it will take place in the second half of 1974, possibly in October, to coincide with National Day.

The present timetable calls for the final report of the Constitutional Planning Committee in February before the House of Assembly. The constitution will include provisions for the transition from self-government to independence.

In April the House will meet in special session to consider and adopt the constitution. In May the Australian Parliament will remove from the Papua New Guinea Act those parts which have been included in the PNG constitution as adopted by the House. Then, independence can follow smoothly.

There are some stumbling blocks. When Minister Somare made a tour of the isolated Highlands districts, he was besieged with requests to delay independence, nor were they anxious to lose Australian financial assistance. There also has been some talk of

Voice Of The People

Dear Editor:
An Open Letter To President Richard M. Nixon

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:
This will bring into focus the general sentiment of Americans residing in Guam about the conditions resulting from your Watergate crisis.

The American Guamanians appreciate your accomplishments; we particularly welcome the peace and order in Vietnam, the restoration of the mighty dollar, the justified increase of food prices.

It is with great horror that we view attempts by the Democrats and the eastern establishment press to impeach your honor and character.

The problem seems to be your press agent. Ronald Ziegler has not done much to help your image—no wonder you push him around! I suggest you fire him and hire Guam's rising news press agent, Arsenio S. Sulquiano.

Mr. Sulquiano managed to convince the Filipino Guamanians that Marcos' New Society is the next best thing to Mussolini's Italy; that the rights of the imprisoned Senator Aquino must give way to the interest of the greatest number; that journalists and outspoken dissenters should be jailed for their isolated and individual beliefs.

If Mr. Sulquiano can convince Filipinos, a traditionally

With opposition out of the way, Mr. Sulquiano could then concentrate on publicizing the resulting peace and order in the streets of Washington, New York, Chicago and San Francisco. He could threaten to punish all gas hoarders. He could make people forget Watergate and make them feel free, secure and prosperous. He could even attract tourists and invite Americans living in Canada to come home for a look-see.

With Mr. Sulquiano and his friends taking the Gallup and Harris polls, your rating would jump dramatically!

If Mr. Sulquiano is unwilling to leave his many friends and relatives on Guam, you should explain your predicament to your good friend Ferdinand E. Marcos. He would only be too happy to send you the necessary legal and military experts to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, declare martial law, jail all your enemies, scare the American public into quiet submission, and return your 1972 mandate.

With you for the next three years.

/s/ Edwina Stewart

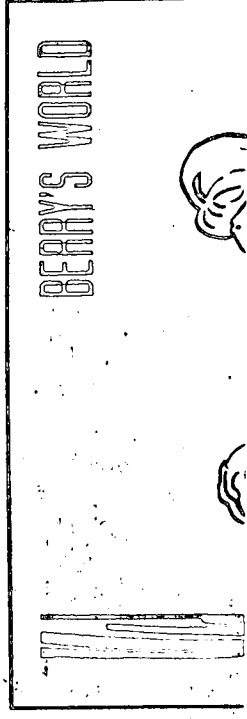
* Dear Editor:
This morning I attended the dedication of the Pasco De Banderas at Skinner Plaza.

I, although am not an official spokesman, wish to say in behalf of all the Marines that landed on Guam in 1944, "Thank You." to Governor Camacho, to Mr. Jose Diego and others responsible for this display and for dedicating this to the U.S. Forces.

When Miss Linda Leon Guerrero sang the National Anthem and the Guam Hymn so beautifully...I'll admit tears came to my eyes...I was among the Third Marine Division that landed at Asan on the morning of July 21, 1944. Many of my good friends and Buddies died here during those days.. and in behalf of them I would again say "Thank You."

Because of these experiences during the war days here, I dedicated my life to God and returned to Guam in 1955, with my family, where it has been my privilege to teach in the public schools and to preach the Gospel of Christ these past 18

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four on the isolated highlands districts. In this respect, requests to delay independence, nor were they anxious to lose Australian financial assistance. There also has been some talk of separatist movements from both Papua and Bougainville.

Somare told the islanders that the PNG Government had no plans for kicking out all Australians. It was simply that in the public service if a New Guinean could do the job of an expatriate then the expatriate would be replaced. "I can assure you that many Australian officers are staying in the public service because they want to help us with the work of developing our country, and because they believe a PNG government can work well," Somare said.

In two years the country's white population has fallen by about 20 per cent from 55,400 to 44,600. This rate is expected to accelerate between now and the end of 1976 when the government's localization program should have reduced the number of expatriate public servants from 7,500 to 3,000. The New Guineans filling the vacancies are becoming the privileged class in a previously classless society. With salaries ranging up to about \$8,500 a year they are becoming immeasurably more affluent than the vast majority of the country's 2,500,000 people. The entire indigenous workforce is estimated at just over 200,000 so most New Guineans do not take part in the cash economy at all. The new elite are the university trained ministerial advisers, department heads, district commissioners and senior public service officers.

Talking about the transition, Somare was quoted as saying: "Over the past 18 months my black government has operated without trouble and I cannot see why people are worried. My government wants people from other countries to come and invest here but they must do so under our terms."

The image that most of our local people have to New Guinea islanders is not too flattering. We think of them as kinky haired natives, only a generation removed from cannibalism. Yet, in view of the remarkable strides made towards independence in PNG, our images are beginning to change. We have nothing but pride and admiration for the islanders as they move ahead. Obviously, they are going to make mistakes. It isn't all going to run smoothly. It still appears that the end, self determination, complete freedom, real independence for all its people justifies the means.

Not all of the islands will be going the route of PNG, although all of the others will be watching their big island brother. For instance, much to the surprise of the administration the American Samoans, who went to the polls on Nov. 6, voted against proposals for a new constitution by a margin of more than two to one. The rejected constitution would have provided for an elected Samoan governor and lieutenant-governor instead of executive appointed from Washington.

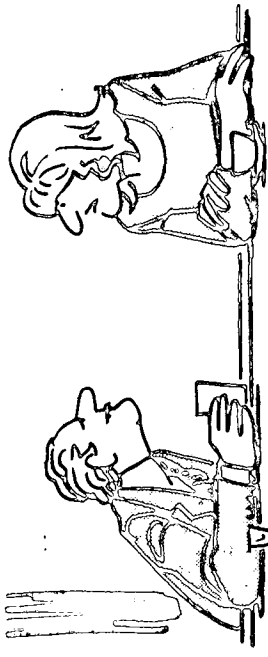
In still another island, New Caledonia, Paris agreed to provide increased loan commitments—in exchange for additional concessions to French mining companies, indicating that the Caledonians will be under the French wing for many years to come.

Finally, Western Samoa, without any foreign assistance, and without any real resources seems to be in serious financial difficulties. They have had a \$1.6 million deficit last year, and have just about stopped all imports to Samoa in a general belt tightening. Critics talk about Samoa's 19th century approach to 20th century problems.

Throughout all the islands it seems to come down to a full belly vs. independence—a choice that Guam has yet to make, and if planning and imaginative leadership is provided, may never have to

beliefs. If Mr. Sulquiano can convince Filipinos, a traditionally freedom fighting people, that dictatorship is good, he can convince the American public that you are no crook.

With a little help from his friends in Manila and your permission, Mr. Sulquiano could imprison Senator Irving and his committee; suspend publication of the New York Times, the Washington Post, and all those other vicious journals; fire Walter Cronkite and his drinking buddies; close Berkeley, Harvard and the other hotbeds of radical-pinko thinking.



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John Buchwald

"Try your line on somebody else, Buster. I'm a policeman in disguise!"

Goodbye Old '73

By Art Buchwald

WASHINGTON — Grizzled old 1973 was putting the last things into his suitcase as young, bright-eyed 1974 stood nervously in the bedroom. "Well," said old '73, as he stuffed a few more White House tapes into his bag, "that seems to be about it. The place is all yours. Here are the keys to the house. Oh, by the way, keep the thermostat down to 68 or you may run out of oil by March. You may run out of it anyway. I don't know what happened. When I moved in in January everything was going great, then suddenly in October the bottom fell out, and damned if we didn't have a worldwide energy crisis. 1972 didn't say a word to me about it."

"Yessir," said 1974. "Now," said old '73, "here are the keys to the car. You can drive only 55 miles an hour and you're supposed to put only 10 gallons of gas in your tank a week. I'm glad I'm getting out, because that's going to be a drag." "I'll do the best I can with what I've got," 74 said.

Old '73 looked at '74 quizzically. "I'm sure you will. Care for a drink?"

"Thank you, sir," said '74 "but I don't drink." Old '73 poured a double shot and drank it down neat. "You will before the month is out," he said. "If you don't drink you'll really go off your axis. Listen, when I took this job over from '72, he didn't tell me one damn thing. He just said 'It's all yours Buster, I'm getting out of here.' But I'm not that kind of a year. I'm going to level with you."

"I'm certain I can handle them," '74 said. "After all, I graduated from Harvard."

Old '73 poured himself another double shot. "Yeh. Well anyhow you can expect a lot of shortages. It's going to be hard to get plastics, steel, paper, glass and even plywood. There'll be worldwide unemployment and an unreal inflation. And to top it off, they'll probably impeach the President of the United States."

"If things were perfect there would be no challenge, would there?" '74 replied.

"You really are square," old '73 said as he took a swig from the bottle. "Well, suppose I told you I'm leaving you a little ole war in the Middle East to solve, and if you don't it could mean high noon for the Russkies and the Americanskis."

"I'm certain sane minds will prevail," '74 said. Old '73 opened another bottle. "Boy, I must say you're a cool one. Anyway, I'm all burned out. It's time for me to be getting along. You're a nice kid. I like your style. Maybe we can get together sometime and you can let me know how you did."

"I'd like that, sir," '74 said. "Can I help you with your bag?"

"That would be mighty nice of you. I'm just going down to the bus station by myself."

"Okay, sir. Just hold on to my arm." As they walked outside they saw a cheering crowd, and a band began playing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," followed by "Auld Lang Syne." Tears welled in old '73's eyes. "I'll be damned," he said. "I'll be damned, I'll be damned, I'll be damned."