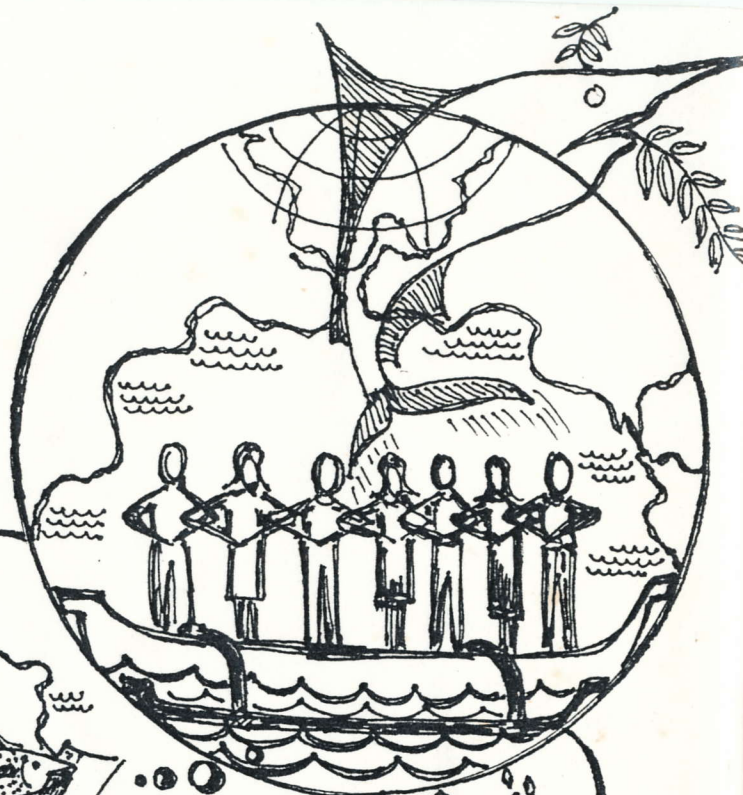
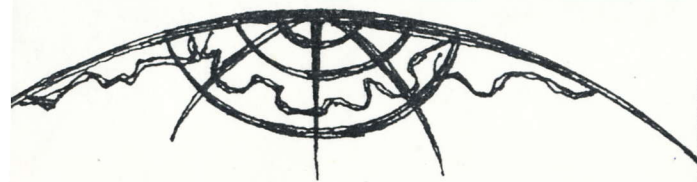


Process REPORT

ICSF South Pacific Mission

JANUARY 18 - MARCH 14,
1993





MARSHALL IS.

KIRIBATI

SOLOMON IS.

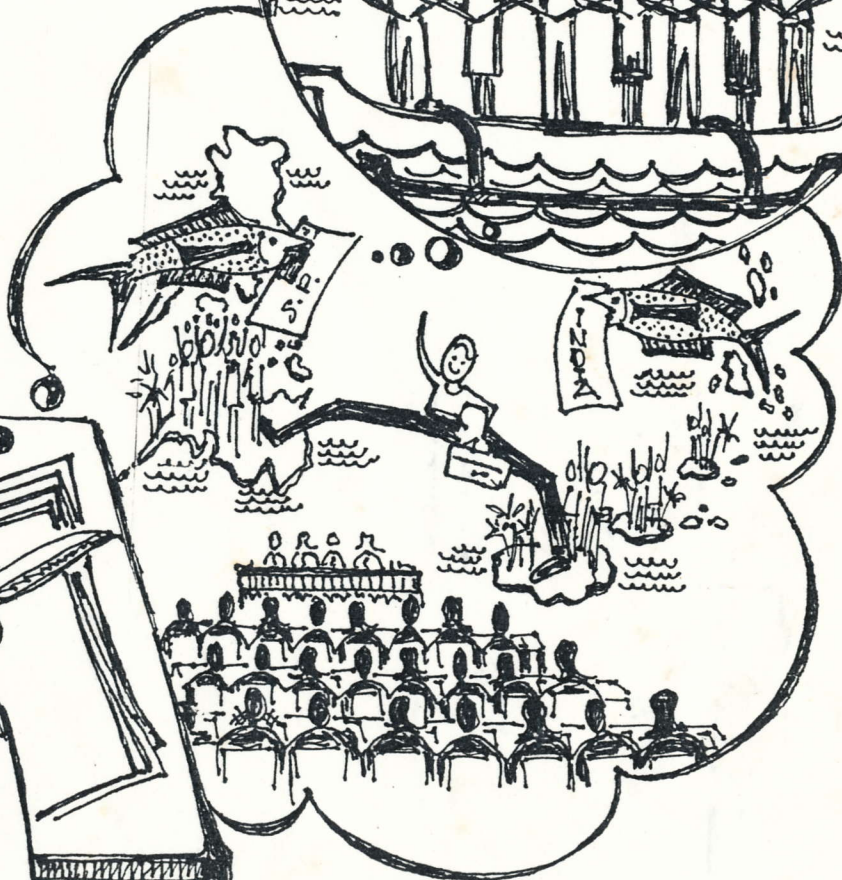
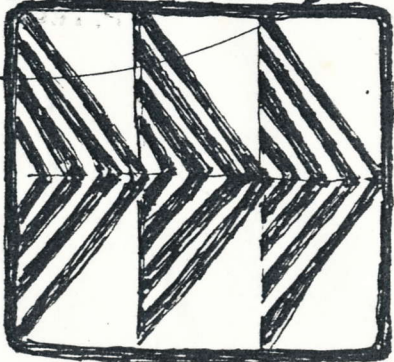
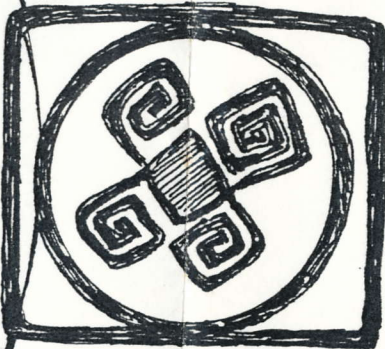
WESTERN SAMOA

FIJI

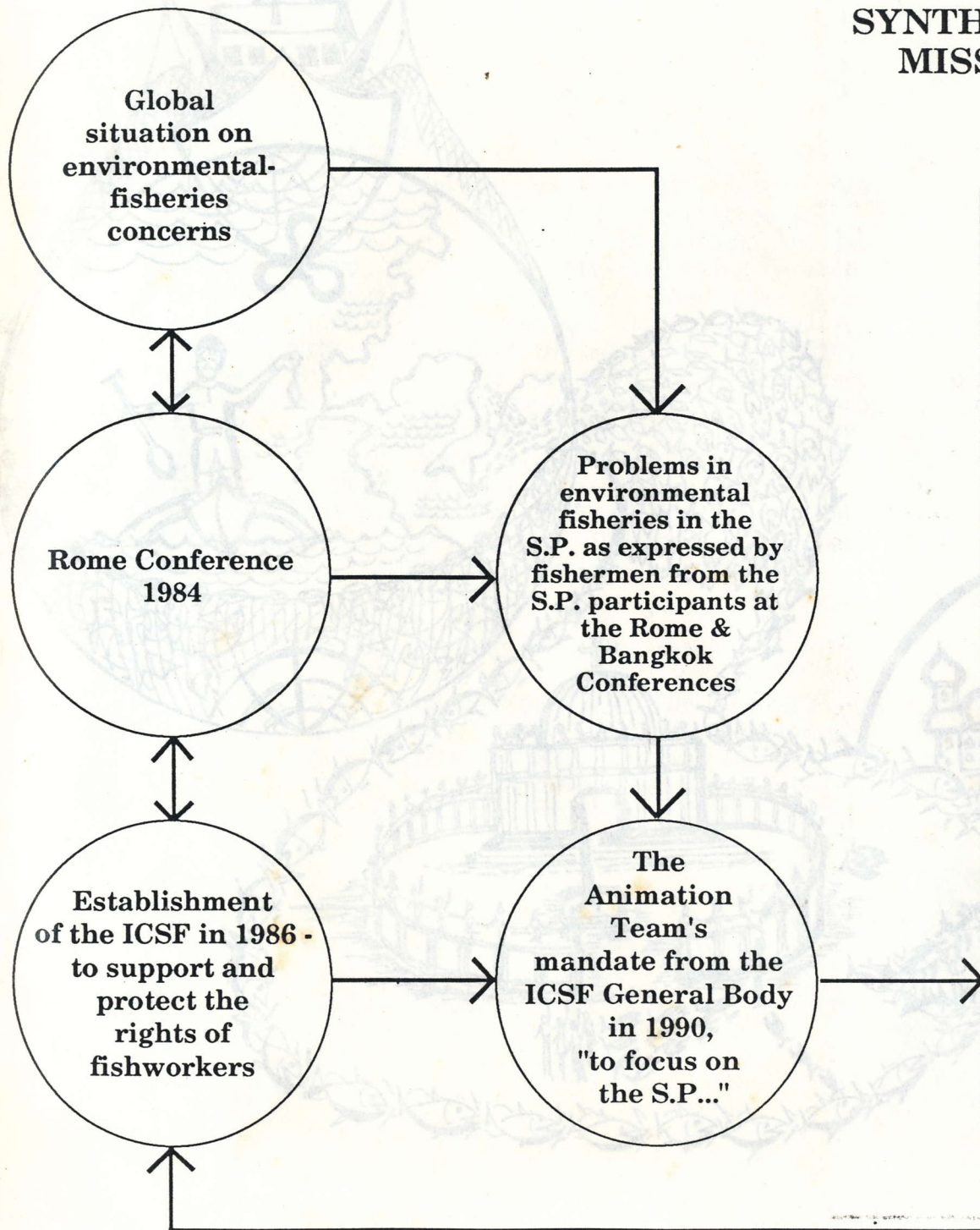
TONGA

NEW ZEALAND

PNG

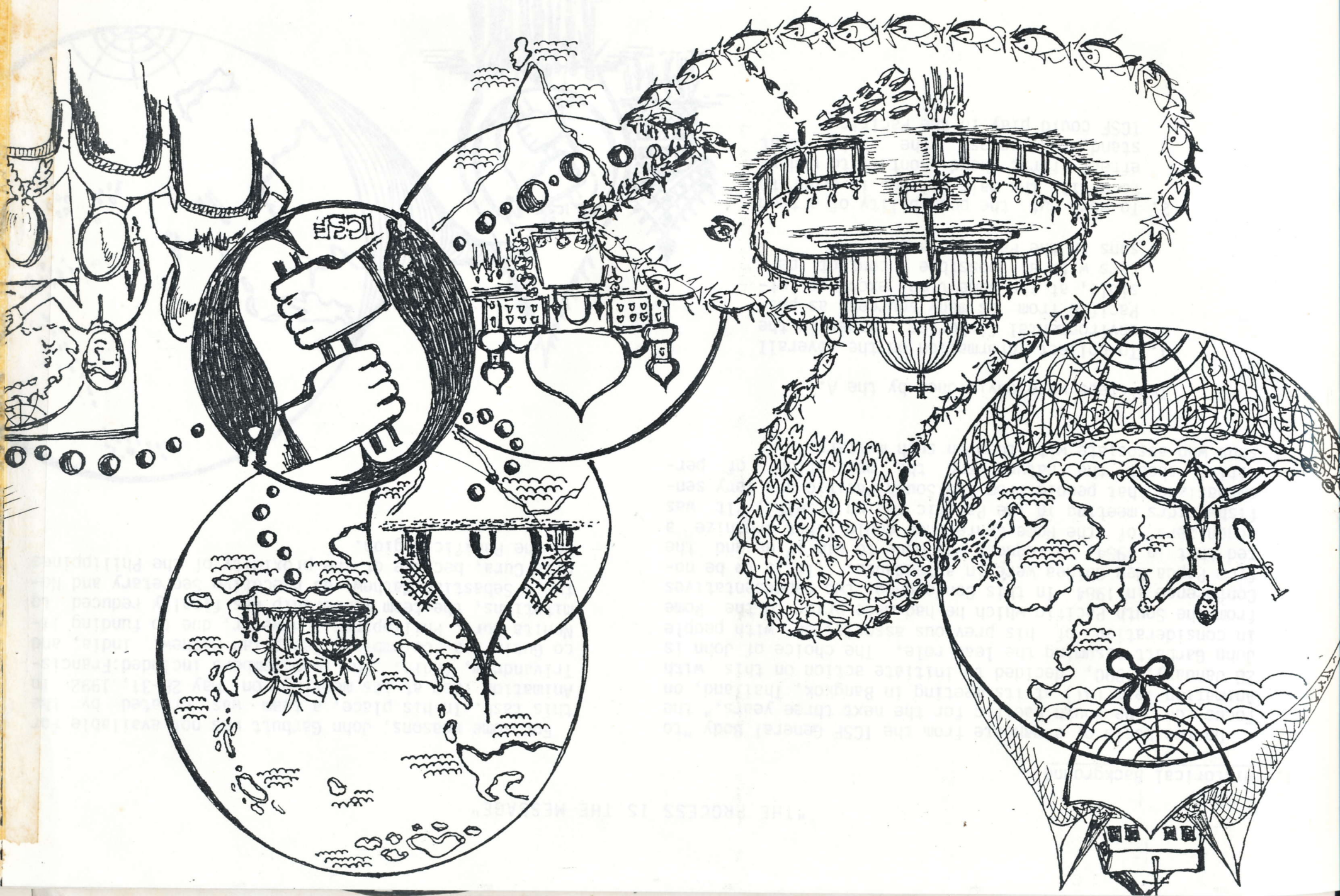


SYNTHESIS OF THE PROCESS ON THE ICSF MISSION TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC (S.P.) (January 18 - March 14, 1993)



Preparatory Phase

- fund sourcing;
- correspondence to the S.P. organizations & individuals involved in & concerned with environment & fisheries programs/issues;
- Creation of an S.P. Team;
- Collection of information materials on the S.P. region/environmental-fisheries issues; and
- S.P. MISSION PLAN
 - goal
 - objectives
 - countries to be visited & focus of interest
 - relevant points to be looked into
 - schedule of visit



"THE PROCESS IS THE MESSAGE"

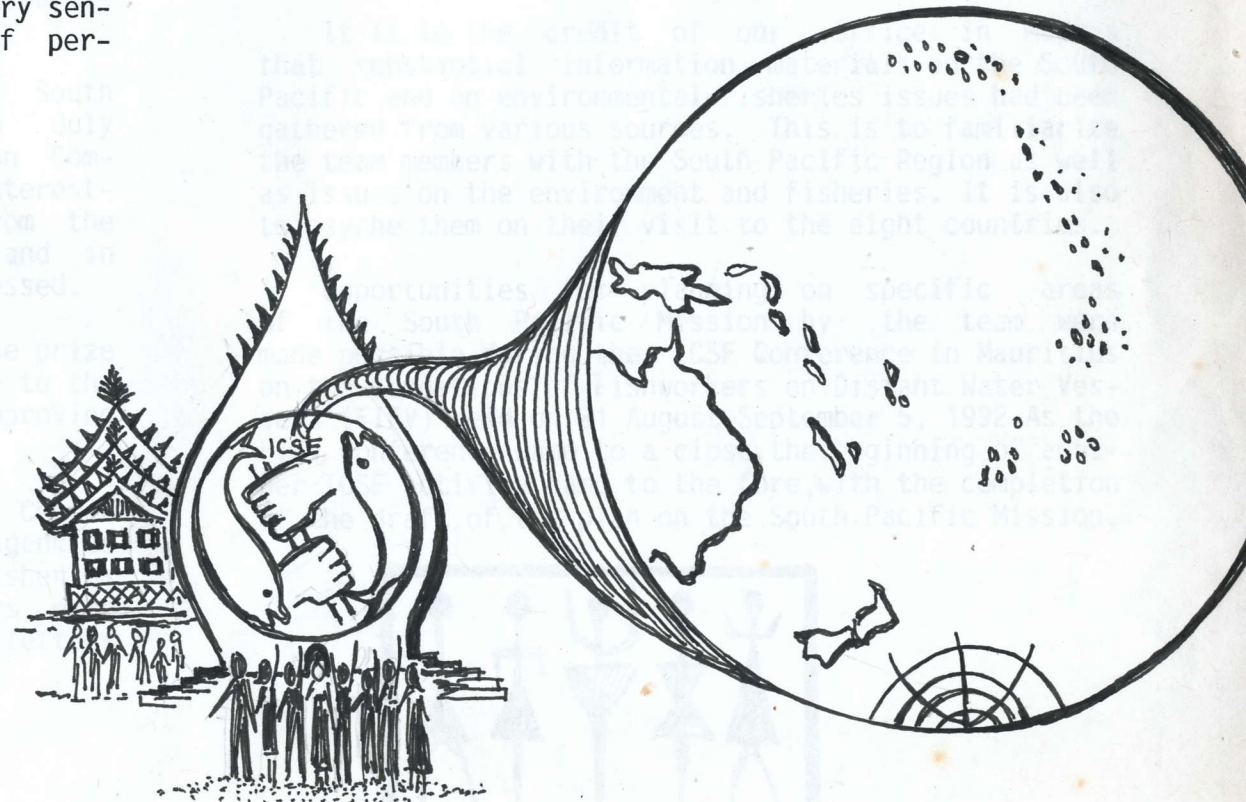
1. Historical Background

On the basis of a mandate from the ICSF General Body "to focus on the South Pacific for the next three years," the Animation Team (AT) at its meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on 28 January, 1990, decided to initiate action on this with John Garbutt assuming the lead role. The choice of John is in consideration of his previous association with people from the South Pacific which he had made prior to the Rome Conference in 1984. In this Conference, two representatives from Papua New Guinea were in attendance. (It is to be noted that in 1984, a request was made to him if he and the organizers of the Rome Conference could first organize a fishworkers meeting in the Pacific region itself.) "It was emphasized that people from the South Pacific are very sensitive about the nature and the motivation of persons who associate with them on such matters."

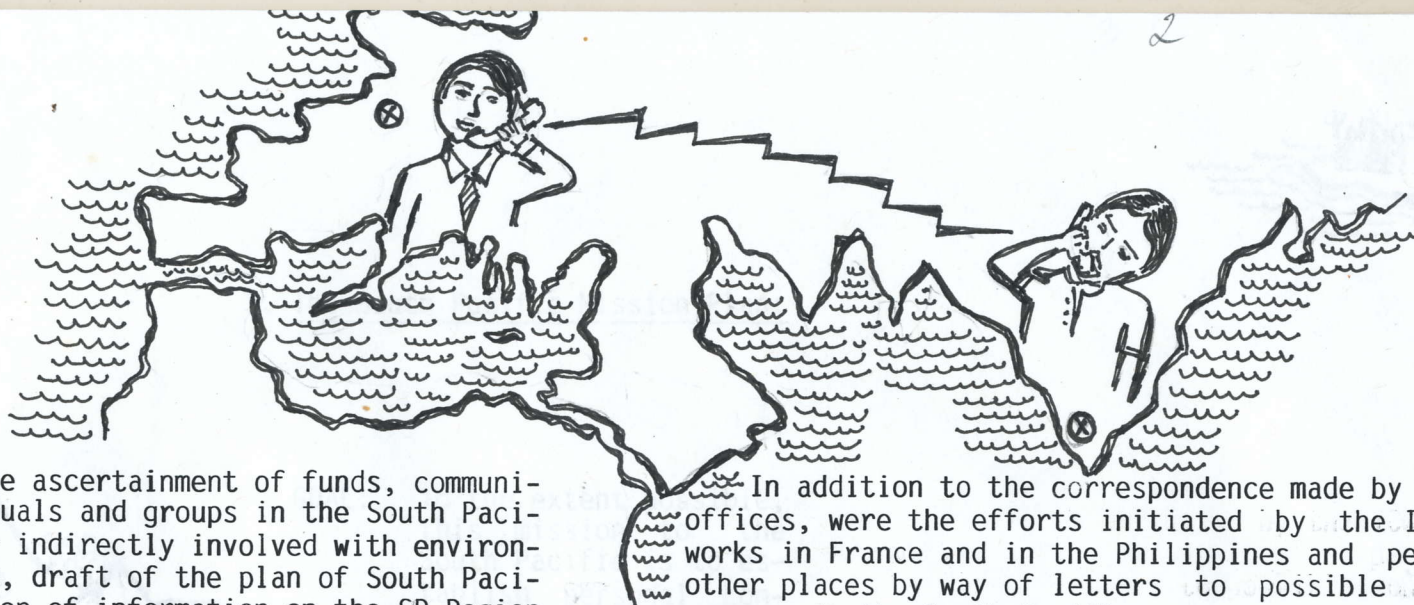
For some reasons, John Garbutt was not available for this task. In his place, a team was created by the Animation Team at its meeting on May 28-31, 1992 in Trivandrum, India. The team members included: Francisco Gutierrez, Colombia, Sebastian Mathew, India, and Nenita Cura, Philippines. However, due to funding limitations, the team membership was finally reduced to two - Sebastian Mathew, as Executive Secretary and Nenita Cura, because of the proximity of the Philippines to the Pacific Region.

Two steps were envisioned by the A.T.:

1. To collect information on the overall environmental fisheries issues in the Pacific from as many sources as possible, at the same time, exchange letters with all possible contact persons in the Pacific; and
2. To work out the possibility of a team to visit the main islands in order to effect first hand contact to understand and assess the role that ICSF could play in the Pacific.



2. Preparatory Phase:



This phase involved the ascertainment of funds, communication to various individuals and groups in the South Pacific who were directly or indirectly involved with environmental fisheries concerns, draft of the plan of South Pacific Mission, and collection of information on the SP Region in general, and environment and fisheries issues, in particular.

Signalling the start of the preparations for the South Pacific activity, was a letter to Pierre Gillet in July 1991 from the NGO Liaison Committee to the European Community, mentioning three contact organizations. Interestingly, one of them was the Asian Social Institute from the Philippines. Between the ICSF office in Madras and in Brussels, preparations took off and gradually progressed.

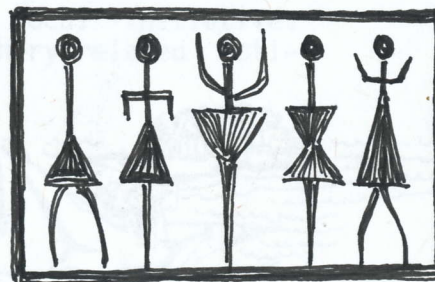
Funds for this activity came from two sources: the prize money received from the NGO Liaison Committee to the European Communities for ICSF's contribution in improving north-south relations and from the ICSF funds.

In June 1992, the Madras Program Coordinating Center started sending out letters to NGOs, multi-lateral agencies and government agencies and individuals in fisheries and environment in the South Pacific. Seventy letters were sent out and of these, about forty acknowledgement letters were received.

In addition to the correspondence made by the ICSF offices, were the efforts initiated by the ICSF networks in France and in the Philippines and perhaps in other places by way of letters to possible contact persons in the South Pacific.

It is to the credit of our office in Madras that substantial information materials on the South Pacific and on environmental-fisheries issues had been gathered from various sources. This is to familiarize the team members with the South Pacific Region as well as issues on the environment and fisheries. It is also to psyche them on their visit to the eight countries.

Opportunities for planning on specific areas of the South Pacific Mission by the team were made possible during the ICSF Conference in Mauritius on the Conditions of Fishworkers on Distant Water Vessels (FIFV) held on 31 August-September 5, 1992. As the FIFV Conference came to a close, the beginning of another ICSF activity came to the fore, with the completion of the draft of the plan on the South Pacific Mission.

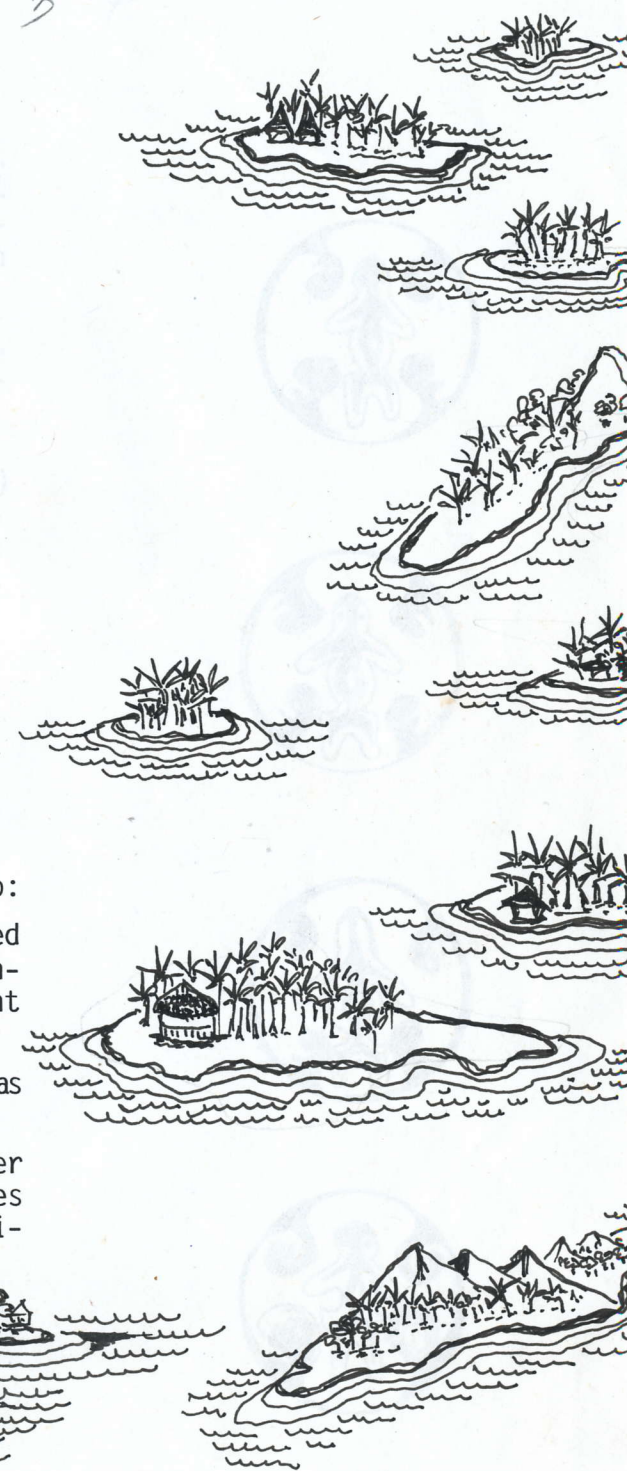
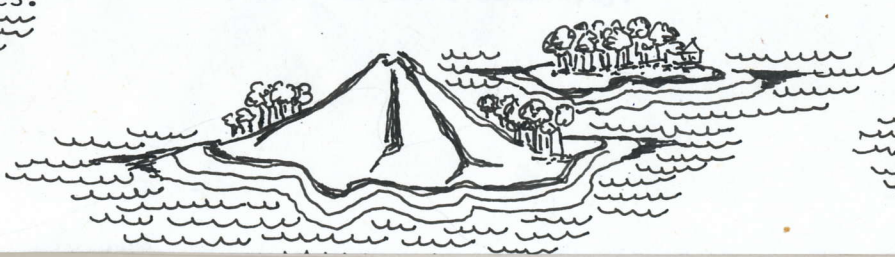
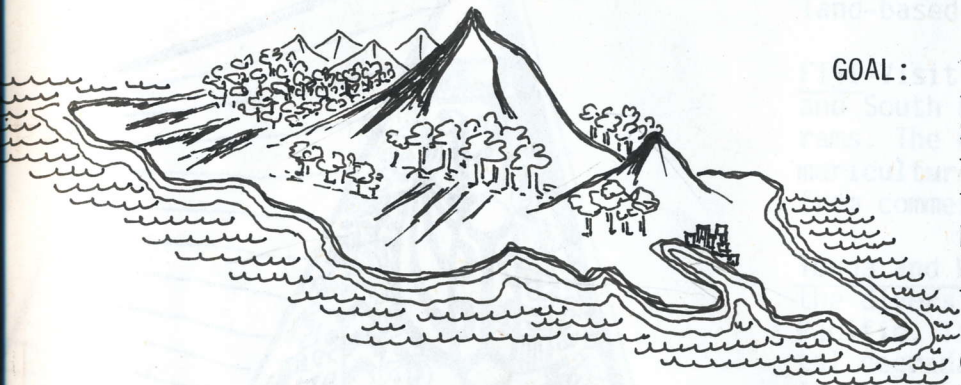


3. The South Pacific Mission Plan:

GOAL: To the extent possible, this mission to the South Pacific is to establish personal contacts in order to explore avenues for collaborative efforts in the region which may lead to the expansion of the ICSF network to the South Pacific.

OBJECTIVES: Towards this end, this initiative shall attempt to:

- Document land-based and sea-based problems faced by fishing communities in the South Pacific, including the impact of unsustainable development practices and nuclear hazards;
- Identify local fishermen organizations as well as NGOs working with fishing communities; and
- Build-up exchange network to facilitate better communication and to support local initiatives towards social justice in fishery-related activities.



Areas of Concerns in each country:

Papua New Guinea - Documentation of problems arising from joint ventures in tuna fishery and environmental degradation from logging and mining activities as well as visit to NGOs working with fisherfolks.

Solomon Islands - Focus on problems of subsistence fisherfolks arising from baitfishery and other land-based activities.

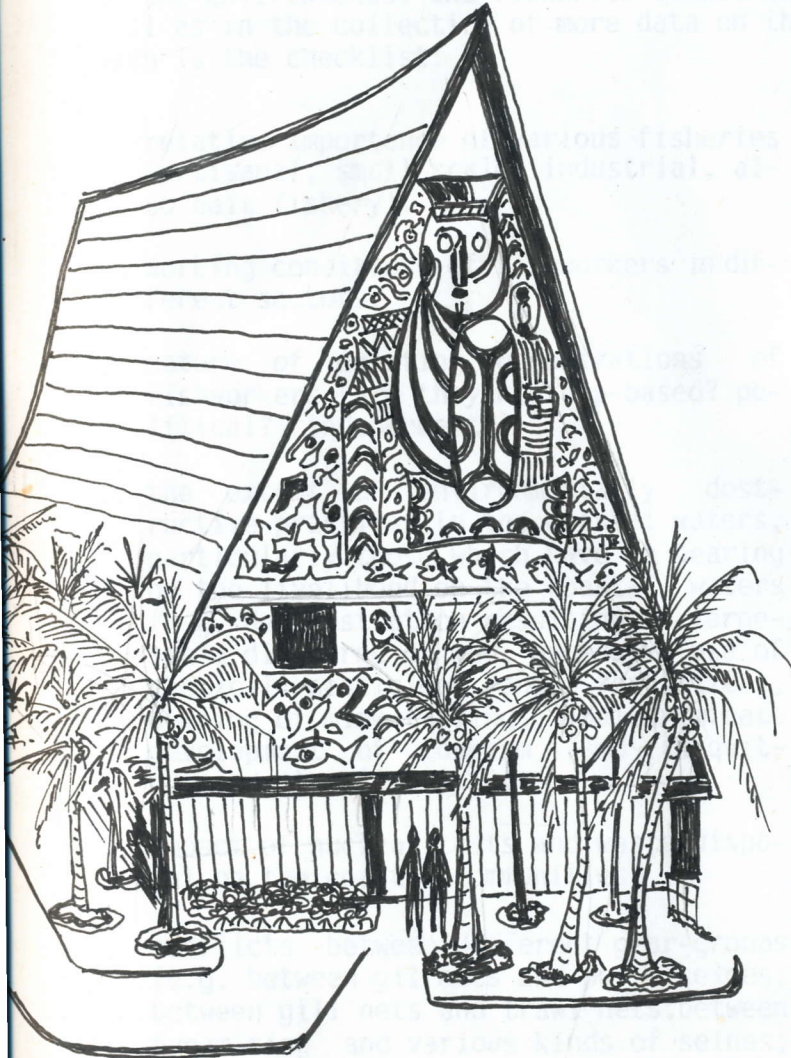
Fiji-Visit to the University of South Pacific (Suva) and South Pacific Regional Fisheries Support Programs. The mission will look into the threats to the mariculture activities of subsistence fisherfolks from commercial fishing.

Tonga and Western Samoa - A better understanding of the diversity of fishing communities in the South Pacific. The mission will look into the environmental degradation, particularly with reference to nuclear and waste disposal and tests in the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program.

Kiribati - a look into the problems in coastal waters arising from indiscriminate urbanization activities, which threatens subsistence fishery as well as the fisherfolks.

Marshall Islands - A clearer understanding of the American nuclear tests in the Bikini and Eniwé atolls and the negative impact of the tests on the people and their environment.

New Zealand - A visit to the Pacific Concerns Resource Center, Auckland, and the Maori community.



A CHECKLIST OF RELEVANT POINTS

The team discussed and came up with a set of relevant points to take up in the interview process with key persons in the environmental and fisheries issues in the region, as well as in the collection of more data on the above. Here-with is the checklist:

- . relative importance of various fisheries (artisanal, small-scale, industrial, also bait fishery);
- . working conditions of fishworkers in different sectors;
- . nature of existing organizations of fishworkers (are they kinship-based? political? independent?)
- . the extent of environmentally destructive practices in the coastal waters, particularly those which have a bearing on the livelihood on the coastal waters (e.g. deforestation resulting in large-scale discharge of mud, excessive use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, dumping of mine tailings, indiscriminate development of tourism and iniquitous industrialization);
- . impact of nuclear tests and waste disposal on the coastal communities;
- . conflicts between different gear-groups (e.g. between gil nets and purse seines; between gill nets and trawl nets; between dynamiting and various kinds of seines; also territorial disputes arising from non-recognition of or violation of traditional use rights;
- . role of legislation and the nature of fishery policy advocated by the state;
- . development of aquaculture and its impact on coastal communities;
- . position of women in fishing communities;
- . nature of aid programmes in fisheries with special emphasis on transfer of technology;
- . joint ventures, flags of convenience and licensing of foreign vessels and their impact on coastal fishing communities; and
- . export of fishery products and its nutritional implications for the local population.



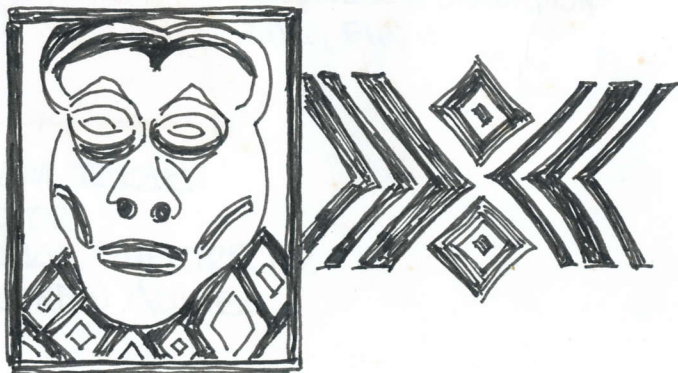
4. The Actual Visit:

Resources of the South Pacific:

4.1 Countries Visited - The countries visited according to their geographical groupings and the order and chronology of the visit:

- Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji (Melanesia);
- Tonga and Western Samoa (Polynesia)
- Kiribati and Marshall Islands (Micronesia)
- New Zealand

The time spent in each country varied depending on the extent of the fishery and environmental activities, as well as the problems and issues involved. Accordingly, the team's efforts were concentrated in the following places: Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby, Lae, Madang), Fiji (Suva), Solomon Islands (Honiara) and New Zealand (Wellington). The countries of Kiribati (Tarawa), Marshall Islands (Majuro) and Western Samoa (Apia) came in second in the order of priority with Tonga (Tongatapu) being third.





PHILIPP MULLER
DIRECTOR
SOUTH PACIFIC APPLIED
GEOSCIENCE COMMISSION
SUVA, FIJI



WILLIAM TAKAKU
DIRECTOR
NATIONAL THEATRE CO.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



WOMEN LEADERS OF THE
FEDERATION OF TRADE
UNION CONGRESS, SUVA,
FIJI



SAM PATAVANGARA
LAGOON FISHERMAN
AND LEADER OF THE
MOROVE PROJECT
SOLOMON ISLANDS



JOHNNY K.S. SORANZIE
FISHERIES COORDINATOR
LUTHERAN DEV'T. SERVICE
DIVISION OF FISHERIES
LAE, P.N.G.



LOPETI SENITULI
DIRECTOR
PACIFIC ISLAND
RESOURCES CENTER
SUVA, FIJI

4.3 Contact Persons:

Our contact persons come from varied backgrounds in Asia and the South Pacific.



MARI SASABE
YWCA, JAPAN
BASED IN SUVA,
FIJI



BRIGID INDER
YWCA, WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND



RIO VILLAFANIA WITH HIS
FAMILY. HE WAS FORMERLY
HEAD OF THE TRAINING,
RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION
UNIT OF THE FAMILY CENTER,
ASIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE (ASI)



TONY CARMEL
FSP, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Their involvement in this mission is in itself a story in networking. Consider the following diagram.

ICSF NETWORK

CONTACT PERSONS

James Smith
CCFD, France

Sr. Wendy Flannery

Ruth Lechte
YWCA, Nandi, Fiji involved in
social issues

Mari Sasabe
YWCA, Osaka - on internship at
PCC in Suva, Fiji, involved in
a Research on the Impact of
Japanese Fisheries on the Women
Workers in the South Pacific

Brigid Inder
YWCA, Wellington, New Zealand
concerned with youth and women
issues

Nenita M. Cura
FCASI, Philippines

Rio S. Villafania
Papua New Guinea
Manager, Samson Signs
and a former Research and
Training Head of FCASI

Joseph Regis
Daru, PNG

Sebastian Mathew
ICSF Secretary

Rev. Baiteke Nabetari
PCC-Suva, Fiji involved
in religious and social
issues

Tony Carmel
FSP, Solomon Islands
concerned with the
environmental issues

R.V. Babu
Wellington, New Zealand
a teacher and married to
a cousin of S. Mathew

Dr. Perpine Joshua
Lutheran Church
Tarawa, Kiribati - involved
in religious/social issues

Rev. Nove Vailaau
Lutheran Church
Western Samoa
Involvement: religious/environment
and other social issues

Santi Dismass
Assumption School



In Tonga, we did not have a contact person prior to our visit. However, our friends from PCC gave us the name of Mosese Atida, Secretary General, Tonga National Youth Congress who was on the plane with us to Tonga. Then there was Pamela Lino, the Director of the Red Cross in Tonga, whom we met at the Honiara Hotel in Solomon Islands, during a meeting of NGOs.

Indeed our contact persons have been of great help in our day-to-day activities. Their support included: Meeting the team at the airport and sending them off, making arrangements for lodging accommodations, the use of their offices and office facilities, and linking the team with relevant organizations and persons in the South Pacific. But more than this physical aspect of assistance is their invaluable psychological and spiritual support to the team such as a sense of security in a foreign country, the comforts of friendship and the feeling of solidarity in the struggle for social justice.

What is perhaps common among our contact persons is their concern for people in general and their shared values of social justice, participation of people in the change process, human dignity and quality of life.

MULTI-FACTORIAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE UNIVERSITY

• Non-government organizations

• Fishery Development Projects
of Subsistence Fisherfolks

TRIPAKA UNIVERSITY



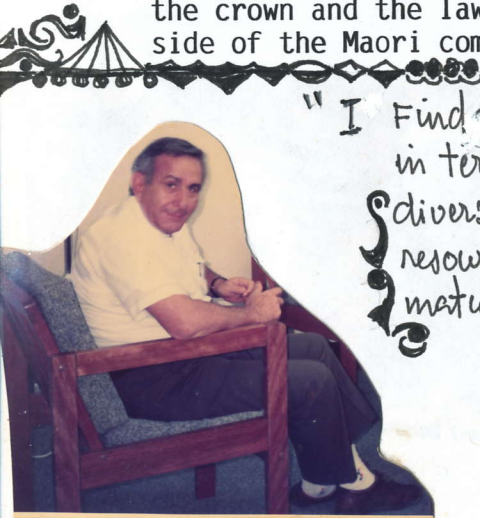


ALBERT WATA, DIRECTOR, FISHERIES OFFICE,
SOLOMON ISLANDS, GIVES A BRIEFING ON
THE FISHERIES SITUATION IN THE ISLANDS

4.4 Persons Interviewed

The team interviewed 76 persons belonging to various sectors engaged in development work not only in environment and fishery issues, but in development as a whole. This is indicative of the team's purpose to have a broader perspective of the development process in the South Pacific and to situate the environment-fishery issues in this broader context. The categories of the persons interviewed are the following:

Government policy makers in Fisheries, Environment and Natural Resources, Geoscience, Health and Justice; representatives from funding agencies; technical consultants for fishery and environment projects; church leaders headed by Bishop Getake Gam; Evangelical Lutheran Church; directors and specialists from multi-lateral agencies; coordinators of projects in fisheries for subsistence fisherfolks; community development specialists/trainors; researches/professors from universities; women leaders; trade unionists; a Senator from Marshall Islands; and government officials in fisheries on the side of the crown and the lawyers and educators on the side of the Maori community in New Zealand.



"I find PNG interesting in terms of cultural diversity, richness of resources and political maturity."

FIKRET KIRDAR
ASST. RESIDENT
REP. - UNDP
PORT MORESBY
PNG

"Environment concerns is not yet in the consciousness of most people in the Pacific."

VILI A. FUAVAO
DIRECTOR - SOUTH
PACIFIC REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAM (SPREP)
APIA, WESTERN
SAMOA

"The fisheries Division is self-reliant. Its revenues come from ice plants, licences, boatyards and fishing gears. The Division is the most organized in the region and the most diversified in terms of activities."

PENI KUNATUBA
DIRECTOR - FISHERIES DIVISION
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
SUVA, FIJI

"We were not warned of the nuclear tests - we were used as guinea pigs by the U.S. Today we are a very unhealthy people."

SENATOR JETTON ANJAIN
REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS
MAVURO, MARSHALL ISLANDS

"In contrast to the Fisheries Division in Suva, Fiji, the Fisheries Ministry in Tonga is still in the process of getting organized having been created only in 1991."

SIONE TUALAU MANGISI
DIRECTOR - MINISTRY
OF FISHERIES, TONGA

"For the past 5 years, Fiji has done well with unions!"

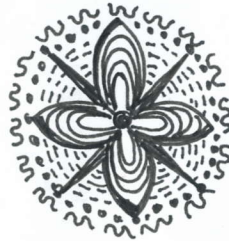
EMMA ORWESSI
FED. OF TRADE
UNION CONGRESS
SUVA, FIJI



4.5 Lodging Site:



Another aspect of the mission which deserves a few lines in this process report is the choice of the lodging site. In most of the countries visited, the team stayed in places that were accessible to people and to means of transportation and other communication facilities, reasonable in cost, comfortably clean and with basic facilities. It is in these casual settings where the team had added opportunities to feel, smell and touch the people's reality, their culture and in the process, established friendly relationships.



4.6 The ICSF Team:

The team is an interesting blend of differences in culture and milieu - one comes from a country which has been influenced by European Catholicism and American commercialism but is presently struggling to assert its identity and direction and the other comes from a country which has been influenced by British colonial rule, with a colorful religious, social and political history.

Similarly, the team members are complimentary in approach as well as in the areas of concentration. As one member focused on the content and the more technical aspect of the subject, the other took note of the process. As one looked at the specificity of the issues involved and their relationship to each other and to the whole issue of fisheries and environment, the other situated this in the macro perspective of development of the countries concerned.

Given the above uniqueness of the team members, they also have some commonalities in origin and values. Both of them are from Asia and both come from countries that have been colonized by countries from the north. Both are concerned with people and the environment and their liberation. Both share the ICSF's organizational values of "low-keyness", sensitivity in approach to people and issues, support to artisanal fishworkers and the women's crucial role in fisheries.



Pacific history dates back 50,000 years ago. The region has three major cultural areas: Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Melanesia is the largest area and contains 97% of the land and 76% of the population. The main islands are Papua New Guinea with a population of 5,200,000 people, Fiji (750,000), Solomon Islands (304,000), Vanuatu (151,000) and New Caledonia (155,000). Micronesia has a total population of 400,000. It includes Kiribati, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Guam and the Marianas Islands. These series of small islands lay mainly north of the equator. Polynesia has a total population of 1,100,000. The points of the Polynesian Triangle are New Zealand at the bottom, Hawaii at the top and Easter Islands in the Far East. Within the Triangle are Tonga, Samoa, Niue, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Tahiti and other islands. Despite their great distances, Polynesian cultures have much in common. The region has a population growth rate of 2.2 per cent.

Most of Polynesian and Micronesian societies, both past and present, are characterized by social classes and hierarchical systems of chieftainship, by ascribed status. Melanesia adheres to an achieved status system and has less social stratification, the emphasis being more egoletarian. Resource-wise, Melanesia has much greater range or resources both human and material.

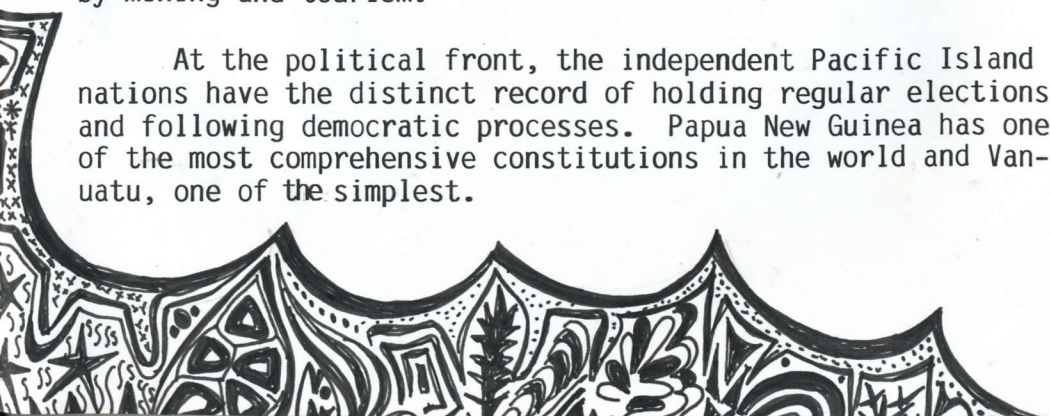
The region is basically agricultural. Its Gross Products comes mainly from agriculture, forestry and fisheries, followed by mining and tourism.

At the political front, the independent Pacific Island nations have the distinct record of holding regular elections and following democratic processes. Papua New Guinea has one of the most comprehensive constitutions in the world and Vanuatu, one of the simplest.

European and Asia cultures have influenced Pacific island cultures, particularly the former through its effective military technology during the past 200 years. Interestingly enough, despite this European dominance in the South Pacific region's religious, economic and political systems, Ron Crocomb in his book "The South Pacific" notes: "Pacific cultures today are very much alive. Some have been bruised, all have been modified, but they seem to be entering a new period of growth and development, each a unique adaptation within the common framework of world cultures". During our brief stay in the region, we were touched by the distinctiveness of the Tongans, Samoans, Fijians, Maoris and the people from Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Solomon Islands. There was something that was refreshingly unique.

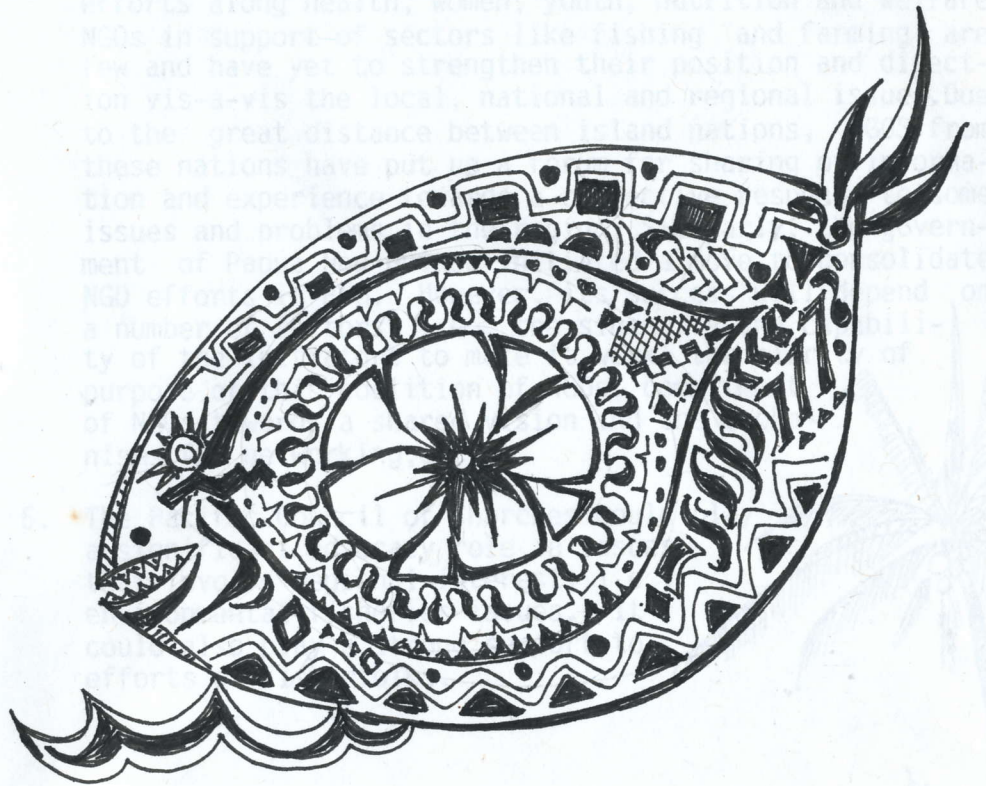
Most of the Pacific nations became independent from colonial rule (United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, France and the USA) in the 60's, 70's and 80's. To date, however, they still remain dependent in other respects, politically and economically. Most consumer goods come from Australia, New Zealand and the US. Foreign influence to top levels of government is marked and foreign aid seems to be biggest in the Pacific.

Indeed, the transition from dependence on foreign rule to independence, as elsewhere, has not been easy and without pain. New problems of varying degrees and magnitude continued to challenge the independent nations. Dependence on foreign experts, the limited pool of human resource for government and technical positions, nepotism, concentration of higher education, power and privilege in the hands of mutually-supporting and self-perpetuating elites based on traditional privilege and/or professional background and the cultural value place on leisure have led to



apid growth of relatively inefficient bureaucracies. r, some of the people we have talked to were quick that while graft and corruption exists in govern- it remains at the top and has not permeated the en- system.

Given this situation which is concomitant to a tion period of development, what are the signs of The Pacific Region today is described as "flex- s muscles". There is a growing concern for self- ce and self-sufficiency. There is a deepening ousness of the need for Pacific people to write history and to chart their direction. Pacific e are regaining confidence in themselves as Euro- lose confidence in themselves, uncertain as they f the legality of their presence. Traditional styles and values are encouraged by Pacific Is- governments to offset the increasing influence ganization and modernization. Efforts are d towards offsetting an increasing trend ds import dominated economy. There is high nce on marine resource development, management nservation of fishery resources, having juris- on over 35 million square kilometers of maritime Pacific Island nations today are moving towards ing a new relationship of interdependence and mu- respect with their former colonizers by a streng- d regional cooperation particularly on trade and ries issues.



INSIGHTS/REFLECTIONS:

1. The eight countries visited are so diversified in geography, in cultures, economies and political set-up as well. Each country has its own uniqueness and charm. What is perhaps common is the friendliness, graciousness and confidence of the people in the region. This could be the influence of their natural environment.

2. Having gone to the South Pacific, having heard the people's stories and having read their history, it is easy to understand why the people are sensitive and at times suspicious of outsiders. Their history is replete with examples of colonizers owning and controlling their natural resources - people, land, fresh water, minerals, lumber and sandal wood, etc. The more flagrant is the case of the Maoris of New Zealand.

3. While in the South Pacific region, one gets the feeling of rootedness and oneness with nature. The trees, mountains, birds, the oceans and lagoons are just refreshingly delightful. Most people are barefooted. Their attire is practical - of cotton material, simple and comfortable. This brief encounter with nature reminds one of the things one has been missing in big Metropolitan cities.

4. Most non-government organizations are concentrating their efforts along health, women, youth, nutrition and welfare. NGOs in support of sectors like fishing and farming are few and have yet to strengthen their position and direction vis-a-vis the local, national and regional issues. Due to the great distance between island nations, NGOs from these nations have put up a forum for sharing of information and experience towards a collective response to some issues and problems in the region. Similarly, the government of Papua New Guinea initiated a move to consolidate NGO efforts in PNG. However, its success will depend on a number of factors, i.e., the sincerity and capability of the initiators to make it work, the clarity of purpose of this coalition of NGOs, commitment of NGOs towards a shared vision and the mechanisms for networking, etc.

5. The Pacific Council of Churches could play a significant advocacy role in issues that involve regional interest, i.e., environmental-fisheries issues. It could also play a strong support to efforts of fisherfolks.

