

FRANCE - NEW CALEDONIAEXCERPTS OF SPEECH OF M. JACQUES CHIRAC P.M.  
IN NOUMEA - 29 AUGUST, 1986 \*

IT IS TOGETHER WITH ALL OF YOU WHO, AT DIFFERENT TIMES BUT WITH THE SAME LOVE, HAVE CHOSEN NEW CALEDONIA AS THE LAND ON WHICH TO SETTLE, THAT WE SHALL BUILD, IF THAT IS YOUR WISH, A PEACEFUL AND FRATERNAL TERRITORY WITH RICH AND VARIED CULTURES, OFFERING AN EXEMPLARY ILLUSTRATION OF WHAT LIES BEHIND FRANCE'S PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC,

IN THAT RESPECT, I CONSIDER THAT FRANCE'S ROLE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY IN NEW CALEDONIA, IS STILL INSUFFICIENTLY

UNDERSTOOD BY OUR NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS IN THE PACIFIC. SOME STATES, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE FRIENDS OF FRANCE'S, HAVE RECENTLY LAUNCHED THE INITIATIVE YOU KNOW ABOUT IN THE UNITED NATIONS. I SINCERELY THINK THAT IT REFLECTS A VERY INADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF CALEDONIAN REALITIES.

HOW CAN ONE DISPUTE THE FACT THAT THE CALEDONIAN COMMUNITY'S CONSPICUOUS ASSET IS ITS VARIETY AND THAT THE REPUBLIC IS THE BEST CEMENT FOR ITS UNITY ?

HOW CAN ONE FAIL TO SEE THAT, IN THIS TERRITORY WHOSE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT, AS ALL THE PARAMETERS SHOW, IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE REGION, FRANCE HAS PROMOTED CIVILIZATION AND PROGRESS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER ?

HOW, FINALLY, CAN ONE FAIL TO GRASP THAT THAT INITIATIVE IGNORES OUR COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL TRADITION, WHICH RESTS ON THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION BUT DOES NOT ALLOW A MINORITY TO IMPOSE ITS RULE, IF NOT ITS DOGMA, ON THE MAJORITY?

FRANCE WANTS TO NURTURE AND DEVELOP THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH ALL THE SOUTH PACIFIC STATES. SHE WANTS TO CONTRIBUTE WITH EACH OF THEM INDIVIDUALLY TO PEACE AND OUR COMMON DEVELOPMENT IN A CLIMATE OF FRIENDSHIP AND EQUALITY.

IN HER VIEW, IT IS IN THE COMMON INTEREST NOT TO LET MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND IRRITATIONS DEVELOP INTO TENSIONS AND DISTURBANCES WHICH COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT ESPOUSE OUR SHARED VALUES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY EXPLOIT.

SHE IS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN A DIALOGUE WITH ALL THE STATES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM ON ALL QUESTIONS RELATING TO DISARMAMENT.

BY RECALLING THE UNDERTAKINGS SHE PREVIOUSLY GAVE TO THE STATES WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SHE CONFIRMS THAT, AS FAR AS SHE IS CONCERNED, SHE WILL NEVER USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST A STATE THAT DOES NOT HAVE THEM, EXCEPT IN THE EVENT OF AGGRESSION CONDUCTED IN ASSOCIATION OR ALLIANCE WITH A STATE THAT POSSESSES SUCH WEAPONS AGAINST FRANCE OR A STATE WITH WHOM SHE HAS CONTRACTED A SECURITY COMMITMENT.

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\*[ These excerpts were provided by the Embassy of France in Canberra].

- 2 -

THANKS TO ITS CULTURAL SPECIFICITY, ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROFICIENCY OF ITS RESEARCH INSTITUTES, NEW CALEDONIA MAKES AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE RICH VARIETY OF THIS VAST AREA OF THE WORLD.

THE TERRITORY, WHICH IS HOST TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION IN NOUMEA, MUST BE MORE VIGOROUS, DYNAMIC AND IMAGINATIVE IN DEMONSTRATING ITS PRESENCE ON THE REGIONAL SCENE.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION'S SUCCESSES IN FOSTERING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALREADY GIVE AN IDEA OF WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH TRUSTFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES AND TERRITORIES WORKING TOGETHER ON AN EQUAL FOOTING FOR THEIR COMMON PROSPERITY.

IT IS IN THAT SPIRIT OF RECEPTIVENESS AND DIALOGUE THAT FRANCE IS PREPARED TO OFFER HER COOPERATION TO THE STATES OF THE REGION THAT WANT IT IN AREAS OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO THEM: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, FISH FARMING, TROPICAL AGRONOMY, HEALTH, ETC... I HAVE IN FACT DECIDED, IN AGREEMENT WITH GASTON FLOSSE, THAT FRANCE WILL JOIN IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME SHE WILL RAISE HER CONTRIBUTION TO IT TO A SIGNIFICANT LEVEL IN 1987.

ALSO, THE FRENCH UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, TO BE ESTABLISHED RIGHT HERE AND IN POLYNESIA, WILL NATURALLY BE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE STUDENTS AND RESEARCH WORKERS FROM THE WHOLE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION.

IN THAT SAME SPIRIT OF TRUSTFULNESS AND OPENNESS, MY GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO GIVE THE STATES OF THE REGION FULL INFORMATION ON THE POLL BY WHICH NEW CALEDONIA'S INHABITANTS WILL DECIDE THEIR FUTURE AND TO ENABLE THEM, WHEN THE TIMES COMES, TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THAT IT IS DEMOCRATICALLY CONDUCTED, PROVIDING THEY ACCEPT THAT NEW CALEDONIA'S FUTURE MUST BE DETERMINED BY ALL THE NEW CALEDONIANS.

TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT YEAR THE PACIFIC GAMES WILL BE HELD IN NOUMEA, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND SPORT, CHRISTIAN BERGELIN, HAS COME WITH ME TO HELP YOU ORGANIZE THEM. HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY AMONGST OTHERS TO FORGE CLOSER TIES WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND SHOW THEM WHAT YOU ARE AND WHAT DRAWS YOU TOGETHER. FOR YOU MUST NOT MISS ANY CHANCE. YOU FORM AN ORIGINAL COMMUNITY, IN MANY WAYS A UNIQUE ONE. ENRICHED BY THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOU, UNITED BY YOUR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES, FULL MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, YOU MUST BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN SHOWING NEW CALEDONIA'S TRUE FACE, AND EVERYONE WILL THEN UNDERSTAND THAT, HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC, IT IS FRANCE'S FACE ./.

## - SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM\*-

8-11 August 1986


**South Pacific Bureau for  
Economic Co-operation**

The Heads of Governments of the South Pacific Forum, meeting in Suva on 8-11 August, request the Committee on Decolonisation to recommend to the United Nations General Assembly the reinscription of New Caledonia on the United Nation's List of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Signed:

Hon Lionel Bowen, MP  
Deputy Prime Minister  
& Attorney-General of Australia

Rt Hon Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, GCMG, KBE, KStJ  
Prime Minister of Fiji

H E Hammer DeBaburn, GCMG, OBE, MP  
President of Nauru

Hon Sir Robert Rex, KBE, CMG  
Premier of Niue

Rt Hon Sir Peter Kenilorea, MP  
Prime Minister of Solomon Islands

Rt Hon Dr Tomasi Puapua, MP  
Prime Minister of Tuvalu

Hon Vaal Kolone  
Prime Minister of Western Samoa

SUVA, FIJI 8 August 1986

Hon Sir Thomas Davis, KBE  
Prime Minister of Cook Islands

H E Ieremia T Tebali, GCMG  
President of Kiribati

Rt Hon David Lange, MP  
Prime Minister of New Zealand

Hon Legu Vaka  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of  
Papua New Guinea

HRH Crown Prince Tupouto'a  
Minister for Foreign Affairs &  
Defence of Tonga

Hon Fr Walter Hadye Lini, CBE, MP  
Prime Minister of Vanuatu

\*[The text of this request was provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra].