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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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WESTERN DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1969-1970

DARU BOZE

<u>Reports no.</u>	<u>Officer conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
<u>DARU</u>		
1-69-70	D. R. THOMAS	KIWAI EAST AND WEST C.D.
<u>BOZE</u>		
1-69-70	F. BAKER	PART BITURI C.D. ORIOMO BITURI COUNCIL AREA ALSO PART TRANS FLY C.D. MOREHEAD SUB DISTRICT.
2-69-70	F. BAKER	PART ORIOMO BITURI COUNCIL AREA
3-69-70	M. M. YOUNGER	ORIOMO AND BITURI C.D.
4-69-70	L. M. YOUNGER	PARTS ORIOMO/BITURI AND TRANSFLY C.D.

67-3-90 (14)



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of... WESTERN Report No. Daru No. 1 69/70

Patrol Conducted by... D.F. THOMAS

Area Patrolled... KIWAH EAST AND WEST CENSUS DIVISIONS

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....

Natives... B.P.A.N.G. Policemen... Council Clerk

Duration—From... 13/2/1970 to 26/3/1970 (Broken)

Number of Days..... 35

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?..... No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services..... /Jan/1969..

Medical /Feb/1970..

Map Reference... Kiwai, Daru and Boigu

Objects of Patrol... Census Revision and Routine Administration

Assist in Tax collection.

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

6/8/1970.

M. Holmes
District Commissioner *AB*

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation \$.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund \$.....

Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund

.....

.....

HRD:EMB

67-3-90

Division of District Administration

HRD:EMB - Encls.

17th August, 1970.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARE.

DARE PARCEL NO. 1/2-70

Your reference 67-2-1 of 7th August, 1970.

I acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of Annual Census and Statistics Report by Mr. John M. ... Assistant District Officer, of KIVAI EAST and KIVAI WEST Census Divisions.

An informative report documenting local ... and statistics. Your comments and those of the Assistant District Commissioner adequately cover the points of interest raised by the report.

The Census figures will be further commented on under separate memoranda.

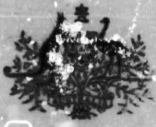
Les Beech

(S. N. HALL)

Secretary,

Department of the Administrator.

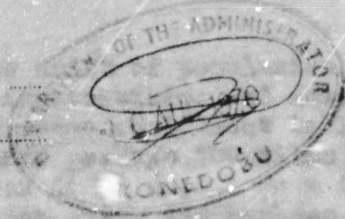
C.C.
Mr. D.A. Thomas,
Sub-District Office,
DARE.
Western District.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-3-90 (14)

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference 67-2-1
If calling ask for RAC.pmcy
Mr.



In Reply
Please Quote
No. 67-2-1

Department of the Administrator,
Western District,
DARU.

7th August, 1970

Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
DARU.

DARU PATROL 1/69-70

Receipt is acknowledged, with thanks, of three copies of Mr. THOMAS' report following his 35 day patrol of the KIWAI East and KIWAI West Census Divisions. Sampling allowance claim is being funded. Your covering comments are also noted.

2. Mr. THOMAS has made some shrewd and accurate observations on the current situation and personalities in the area patrolled. While this area is not as depressing as some, viz., BANI and GANA Rivers, it can be very miserable - see diary entries 18th February, 20th February, 5th March, etc. - and it is obvious why the 'bright lights' of DARU and MORESBY are attractive, when coupled with the economic (realized or hoped for) and educational facilities available.

3. His report is quite a sound one for a first effort, although the map would win no prizes on the score of clarity or effort made. Certain errors in the form of the report are noticeable, and no area study as such has been attempted.

4. Our attempts to have a separation of function made apparent between Administration census patrols on the one hand, and Council tax collection patrols on the other have not been successful, as the Council has had to depend on Administration transport for this and for its other project work. This has the obvious, and regretted result of maintaining close the identification in villagers' minds of the Administration and tax.

5. Copra production is a possible avenue to increase economic development, but I feel that basically the people aren't really interested in it. Much assistance - in transport, advice and encouragement, provision of covers - has been given them over the years, with disappointingly poor results. I remember several well advertised trawler trips to various areas which brought back little or no copra. One trip in particular brought back a total of four bags of copra after visiting a dozen villages, even though the people had two months' notice of the trip.

6. In relation to an urban and a rural council, the criterion for enrolment in one or the other would be place of normal residence. Your current census should determine this, and there would be no option given to people who normally live in DARU: they would pay the urban rate.

The drift of population to DARU or MORESBY is probably quite irreversible, and quite understandable. What person with any sense would want to live on a periodically-inundated mudbank, perhaps 100 miles from the nearest market for produce, even if it does have a fibre aidpost, a well producing brackish water and perhaps a primary school ten miles away? The younger people have, or seem to have, little or no traditional link to their ancestral village sites, and little inclination to watch the FLY River go back and forth with the tide, when in the towns are jobs, real or anticipated, theatres, lolly water and biscuits, life and action. Living conditions in the town settlements are much the same as in the village, and food is no real problem with plenty of relatives nearby. I would not be surprised to see 15,000 people on DARU by 1980. Higher urban tax rates might affect this somewhat, but then the KIWAI are pretty accomplished tax dodgers, and such expectations might be disappointed.

8. The present uneasy alliance between Messrs. OLEWALE and KLONEY is hardly likely to survive much longer, especially if elections are to be held in the 1977 dry season. KLONEY is quite an astute operator - even if a slimy customer by our lights - and he can be expected to make a forward showing in the next campaigning season from his power base as President of Kiwai Council. He does not have the area of influence of OLEWALE who is widely known throughout the electorate, nor has he the education or oratorical ability.

9. The United Church schools in the area will only be admitted as members of the unified education system if they have the qualified teachers to carry such a school through from Prep to Std. 6. This is going to cause them major difficulty. The Maranatha Mission, a new venture of the Pentecostal persuasion, has neither the staff or the finance at this stage to make much impact in any field.

10. Law and order is no real problem. Offences are usually minor assaults and such, or tax evasion.

11. Mr. Thomas has made a real attempt to find solutions for the malaise and apathy among the KIWAI. Fishing - catching, processing and marketing - would seem to offer the best potential. Whether the people have the managerial capacity to run this, or their own shipping service, remains to be seen. Certainly they will need considerable assistance.

I. A. Holmes
(I.A. HOLMES)
District Commissioner

→ c.c. Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBU.

Two copies of the report herewith.

I. A. Holmes
(I.A. HOLMES)
District Commissioner



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference

If calling ask for

Mr.

67-2-1

In Reply
Please Quote

No.

Department of the Administrator,

Division of District Administration,
Sub-District Office,
DARU, Western District.

The District Commissioner,
District Office,
DARU, Western District.

PATROL DARU No. 1 of 1969/70.

Please find enclosed three copies of a report of the above Patrol conducted by Mr. D.R. Thomas A.P.C. to the Kiwai East and Kiwai West Census Divisions of the Daru Sub-District. in February and March this year. Main objects of the Patrol were Census Compilation, Routine Administration and assisting the Kiwai Council Clerk with the collection of Council Tax. The Objects of the Patrol were successfully carried out and Mr. Thomas by visiting all the villages in the Kiwai Council area has now obtained a good idea of the needs and problems of the Rural residents.

Claim for Camping Allowance is forwarded herewith.

Comments on the Report are as follows:-

(1) Local Government.

By holding taxpayers meetings in the villages Mr. Thomas and Councillors accompanying the Patrol were able to assess the needs of each group more accurately at the Estimates meeting held on their return. Also explanations of what the Council intended doing for each area will probably generate a sense of involvement with the aims of the Council. The provision of a shipping service to the Kiwai Islands, aimed mainly at stimulating the production of copra, is one of the main aims of the Council. Whether such a service will do this remains to be seen. There is no doubt that the production potential is there. If the Agriculture Department were to provide qualified field assistants to advise and assist the people in regard to proper planting and production methods in conjunction with the Council shipping service I have no doubt that production would increase greatly.

I do not think that there should be a separation of the urban and rural sections of this Council, mainly because most of the taxpayers in the urban area are residents of the rural sector and would apt to pay their tax to the rural council rather than the urban one. This would leave an urban council with hardly any income from tax at all and reduce it to the level of depending on Government contracts and subsidies to do any work at all.

(2) House of Assembly.

Mr Thomas' comments are correct and the Member for South Fly makes a practice of visiting as much of his electorate as he can.

(3) Political Education.

As with most areas of the Western District Political understanding is very limited and only intensified Political Education patrols and dissemination of information by Radio Daru will tend to rectify this.

(4) Economic Development.

Copra production is much below the potential of the area and the provision of a shipping service will no doubt do much to increase it. However the provision by the Department of Agriculture of more field workers to advise and supervise production methods would have a far greater economic stimulus. It is felt that the rural area of the Kivai Council could easily raise its cash income if skilled assistance is forthcoming.

The progress of the fishing syndicate has been good and all indications are that it will continue to expand.

(5) Social Development.

The two Kivai Census Divisions are victims of the drift to the urban areas of Daru and Port Moresby. Many people are living on Daru attracted by the social life, education facilities for their children and the more comfortable living conditions, which crowded and unhealthy as they are seem more attractive than life on the Fly River Delta. The solution to the drift is by no means easy to find as many of the people have been living so long in squatter settlements in Daru that they tend to regard it as their home. The Government and Missions have contributed to the population drift to Daru by concentrating primary standard educational facilities on the island rather than in the villages, so that to ensure their children are looked after whilst attending school the parents come to Daru to find casual employment or self employment as fishermen. The provision of more schools in the Fly Delta, encouragement of Copra production and provision of a regular shipping service would tend to bring back the population to the area. Health services throughout the area are quite adequate.

Mr. Thomas has completed quite a good patrol for his first Census and Administration Patrol and will benefit in his Council duties from the knowledge gained of the Council area.

E. J. Martin
(E. J. MARTIN)

Assistant District Commissioner

1970

PATROL DIARY - DARU PATROL No. 1 1969/70

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- February 13th 1015 hours Departed Daru on board MV "Emerald"
1745 hours "Emerald anchored off Koabu and stayed there the night, the Policemen accompanying the Patrol spent the night in the village.
- 14th 0630 hours Left Koabu.
0900 hours Arrived at Doumori, census commenced and completed at 1350 hours.
1500 hours Conducted village meeting on Political Education and Taxpayers meeting.
1730 hours Returned to the "Emerald".
- 15th 0730 hours Departed Doumori and arrived at Aberagerema at 1140 hours. As it was Sunday afternoon I just looked round the village.
- 16th 0700 hours Census for Aberagerema commenced and this was completed by 0930 hours.
1000 hours Village meeting, Political Education and Taxpayers meeting.
1205 hours Took two tax defaulters on board the "Emerald" and departed for Kename, arriving there at 1220 hours.
1300 hours Commenced census at Kename, this was completed by 1545 hours.
1600 hours Village meeting, Political Education and Taxpayers meeting.
- 17th 0700 hours Visited Teapopo Police Post, where reports had been received of a fight at Warriobodoro Village on Sunday the 14th.
0900 hours Arrived at Warriobodoro and commenced census. The tax collection here was very poor and some seventeen men taken into custody as tax defaulters.
1300 hours Investigation was made into the alleged fight and as a result eleven men were charged with riotous behaviour. Arrangements were made for Constable Didimus to take these men to Daru by canoe. The village was in a shocking state and the afternoon was spent supervising cleaning the village up and marking houses to be rebuilt. Departed Warriobodoro at 1700 hours and arrived at Damera at 2000 hours.
- 18th 0700 hours Went into Damera village and saw what was without doubt the worst village visited on the Patrol. The housing was sub-standard, hygiene standards were almost unbelievable, although the adults wore in fairly good condition some of the children were covered in sores and tropical ulcers. The worst of the children were taken on board the "Emerald" and taken later on to the Aid Post at Terere. There was a poor response to the tax collection and there were eighteen tax defaulters taken into custody by the Police. Before leaving the village supervised the cleaning up of the village and marked the houses that required to be rebuilt. It was a pleasure to leave this village at 1300 hours.
1400 hours Census begun at Madaduo.
1615 hours Census completed and village meeting held. Spent the evening in the village.

9

- 19th 0530 hours Left Madaduo.
0700 hours Census carried out for Sagero and Kovasi (these villagers live at the same site), The Political Education and Taxpayers meeting was unusually lively and a number of questions were asked. The questions mainly revolved around Self Government and its possible effects. There were no Tax defaulters.
1400 hours Started census for Terere Village. Held a meeting at 1800 hours which differed somewhat from other meetings held on the Patrol. The main topic was the assistance that the village people would need to give to the Montfort Catholic Mission School that was under construction at the time, in order to keep the school in Maipani. It was quite a pleasant change to see something positive going on in the North Bank Fly area as this, for various reasons, lacks the amenities that cover most other areas in the Kiwai Council.
- 20th 0700 hours Started Census at Maipani, completed at 1200 hours.
1300 hours Inspected the village and marked new site for village some 100 yards back from present village site. The village, at present, under water at high tide and in generally poor condition. At the village meeting it was requested that assistance be given to enable the villagers obtain Copra sheds, as it was stated that boats returning from Kiunga had often stopped there to pick up Copra.
1500 hours Between the villages of Terere and Maipani there were altogether 28 tax defaulters. These men all had either Copra or Sago that they would be able to sell in Daru. So it was left to the Councillor and two committee men to bring the men to Daru to sell their produce and then pay their Council tax. (Subsequently all these men did arrive in Daru and all paid tax).
Those tax defaulters with no produce to sell were then taken on board the "Emerald" which set out for Daru at 1530 hours.
- 21st 0730 hours Arrived Daru.
- 23rd 1000 hours Departed Daru for Demaratamu, arrived at 1830 hours.
- 24th 0700 hours Census for Demaratamu, completed at 0930 hours. Political Education talk given by myself and Taxpayers meeting run by Councillor Dubura Moiba. These people showed great interest in the meeting. A large percentage of these village men work with UDC, and as a result the village appears to prosper.
1200 hours Walked along the beach to Gesoa and arrived there at 1350 hours. 1400 hours started census.
1630 hours Taxpayers meeting and Political Education meeting.
1800 hours Departed Gesoa and arrived at Wapi at 2030 hours.
- 25th 0700 hours Census for Wapi and Aibinio. At the Political Education and Taxpayers meeting the village people were unanimous in advocating a reduction in Council tax. Councillor Dubura Moiba and myself put the case for the tax rate, at some length, but we were unable to alter this strongly held view. (Councillor Simua represents these people well, and has put forward the view of the Wapi and Aibinio people to the Council in Daru whenever the subject of the tax rate is raised).
1900 hours Departed Wapi for Sepe.
2100 hours Arrived at Sepe.

(4)

- 26th 0730 hours Census for Sepe commenced, but had to send the "Emerald" off to pick up some of the village people who were absent at Sago place. A good response for Tax collection. Only one defaulter. The village was in a reasonable condition. There were quite a number of questions raised during the talk on Constitutional Development.
1600 hours Departed for Doropo and arrived there at 1730 hours.
- 27th 0700 hours Census and Tax collection. Very poor response for Tax over 30 defaulters. Of the thirty, twenty were left to the Councillor to bring to Daru to sell produce that they had. (All these eventually arrived in Daru and paid their Tax). The other ten were taken on board the "Emerald". During the village meeting the people complained about the Councillor not being able to cover this area often enough.
1500 hours Departed for Ipisia and arrived there at 1830 hours.
- 28th 0700 hours Departed Ipisia for Daru and arrived there at 1900 hours.
- 1st March 1330 hours Departed Daru but had to turn back owing to damaged fuel line. Arrived back at Daru 1740 hours.
- 2nd 0800 hours Departed Daru arriving Agobara 1230 hours and commenced census.
- 3rd 0700 hours Census for Ipisia and Oromosapua commenced, these were completed at 1200 hours.
1400 hours Census for Sagasia commenced and this was completed at 1530 hours.
1600 hours Political Education and Taxpayers meeting held for the Villages. The topic that brought about the main source of comment was the problem of people staying away from the village in Daru without jobs.
- 4th 0600 hours Departed for Saguane arriving there at 0900 hours. Commenced census.
1045 hours Completed census and departed for Samari.
1230 hours Census for Samari begun and was completed by 1430 hours.
1500 hours Village meeting held. Political Education talk seemed to stimulate some thought among the people. Later on visited the Montfort Mission School. The Mission here, is obviously a good influence on the general standards of the village. Once again it was pleasant to see something being done in an area that has great needs.
- 5th 0500 hours Departed Samari.
0730 hours Commenced census at Iasa. This village is in the advanced stage of decay. Only men of working age are left in the village.
1000 hours Departed Iasa and arrived at Kubira. It was high tide when the Patrol arrived and the village was covered throughout with a minimum depth of six inches. Clearly the village will have to move as the strip of land the village is on is the only land that is available on Kiwai Island for the Kubira people. After discussing the matter with the people they decided to have a meeting with the Severimabu people and ask them for land in the South Bank Fly.
1500 hours Departed Kubira and just outside Mibu Plantation the "Emerald" got caught on a mudbank. "Emerald" got off the mudbank at 1820 hours. The night was spent moored at the wharf at Mibu Plantation.
- 6th 0600 hours Departed Mibu for Daru to prepare for and attend Council Meeting.

- 13th 1100 hours Departed Daru.
1230 hours "Emerald" on mudbank. Got off mudbank at 2150 hours.
- 14th 0800 hours Arrived at Madiri Plantation. Walked through the
 Plantation to Wederihiano Village for census.
1030 hours Completed census and inspected the village. The houses are
 far too small and in poor repair. Six houses were marked
 to be rebuilt. Also the road to the canoe place was
 almost impassable and the Villagers were instructed to
 repair it.
 The Sergeant and Constable from Teapopo Police Post were
 at Madiri Plantation, where they had cleared up a
 complaint by Mr. Holland about some of his workers.
1530 hours Left Madiri for Teapopo and arrived there at 1900 hours.
- 15th 0700 hours Unloaded supplies for Teapopo School while Mr. Council
 Carpenter completed the well. Left Teapopo at 1100 hours.
- 16th 0700 hours Census for Madane commenced and completed at 0900 hours.
1200 hours Departed Madane for Koabu. Census for Koabu. The meeting
 which followed the census in these two villages were very
 poorly received. Must be something to do with dismal
 aspect.
1600 hours Departed Koabu for Severinabu arriving there at 1815 hours.
- 17th 0700 hours Census for Severinabu in the morning and in the afternoon
 held village meeting. In the evening representatives from
 Kubira village came to discuss leaving their present
 village site and to live at Severinabu.
- 18th 0600 hours Departed Severinabu.
0730 hours Census and village meeting at Dawari. Departed Dawari at
 1100 hours.
1230 hours Census and village meeting at Sui. Sui is a very pleasant
 village which produces quite a lot of Copra and has
 managed to keep a high proportion of its people still in
 village.
1700 hours Left Sui and arrived at Parama at 1900 hours.
- 19th 0700 hours Census for Parama took quite a long time and was completed
 at 1615 hours. This was followed by a Political Education
 talk and Taxpayers meeting.
- 20th 0730 hours Census for Katatai begun and it was completed by 1500 hours.
 Political Education talk and Taxpayers meeting followed
 and this was completed by 1630 hours, after which the
 Patrol returned to Daru.
- 22nd 0700 hours Departed Daru.
1530 hours Owing to rough weather and a further break in the fuel line
 anchored in the lee of Duan Island.
- 23rd 0630 hours Left Duan Island and arrived at Buji at 1030 hours.
1100 hours Census for Buji and Ber commenced. These were completed
 at 1400 hours. After village meeting departed at 1600
 hours.
2030 hours Anchored off Saibai Island.
- 24th 0700 hours Census for Sibabadura and Tabate.
1000 hours Completed census. Political Education and Taxpayers
 meeting held.
1530 hours Departed for Mabaduan.
- 25th 0700 hours Census for Mabaduan commenced and completed at 1700 hours.
 This was followed by a Political Education talk and
 Taxpayers meeting.
- 26th 0700 hours Departed Mabaduan for Mawatta arriving there at 0900 hours.
 Census, Political Education talk and Taxpayers meeting
 completed at 1500 hours.
 Patrol then returned to Daru.

----- End of Patrol-----

SITUATION REPORT

POLITICAL:

Council - Both Census divisions are included in the Kiwai Local Government Council.

The Kiwai people have been notorious for their lack of interest in Council work and have a very poor record as Taxpayers. This is partly understandable seeing that the Council is not really playing an active part in the village life. Taxpayers Meetings were held in each village with a view to involving the people more in the work of the Council. If the people can see some tangible benefit coming from the Council there is more chance of getting them to a stage of identifying themselves with their Council. First priority for the Council should be the development of more projects in the villages and to follow this up with a vigorous effort to "sell" the benefits of belonging to a Council.

Adult Education is the greatest need in the Kiwai Council area and the need for the people to actually feel that the Council is something that is relevant to them. To see that the Tax is to be paid to assist the people of the Council area and not simply to be bloody minded.

The Council is approaching a stage where it will be able to do a lot more in the villages and the Council must not only complete and maintain the projects, but it must bang the "drum" to let everybody know what the Council is doing.

On the whole the Councillors are content to sit back and listen and wait for the problems of the Council to be discovered and solved. Mainly the problem is again one of relevance. Sixty percent of the business at any one Council Meeting will be relevant only to the town of Daru because of the usually involved nature of the problems associated with Urban areas. The Rural Councillors are unable to comprehend or follow what is being discussed and switch off.

Of the sixteen Councillors there are only two who appear to have any set ideas, plans that they wish to pursue through the Council and who will attempt to bulldoze the other Councillors into agreement. Usually they have no problems; after attending a number of Kiwai Council Meetings it is easy to conclude that it is a listening body and not a debating one.

The President of the Council, Mr. Samuel Kloney, devotes quite a lot of time but very little attention to the Council. He is there quite obviously to further his own personal political future.

In conclusion there appears little doubt that because of the complexities of urban Local Government there will have to be a separate body to look after Daru. Without a great deal of economic development in the rural areas any Council that was purely based on the rural areas would have severe financial problems. Even so it is inevitable that separation of the urban and rural areas will have to take place, and possibly in the very near future.

House of Assembly -

The Member for South Fly Mr. Ebia Oiwale, is well known to the people. He regularly holds meetings in Daru and these form a link with the Member as most people from the Villages would visit Daru quite regularly. He appears to have quite a large following in the North Bank Fly area, he has patrolled this area quite well.

Political Education

Meetings were held in each village on the Patrol and a talk was given centering on the Committee for Constitutional Development. The apparent knowledge on the subject by the people varied considerably but unfortunately was nowhere very high. At some of the villages there were quite a lot of questions asked but there did not appear to be many people who had any decided views. However, people were advised at all meetings of the desire of the Committee to hear the views of all persons wishing to speak or write to them. The dates of the visit to the Western District were also given at each village.

(6)

ECONOMICS:

It has been estimated that there is a potential catch of 3000,000 lbs for Barramundi, 15,000 lbs for Crayfish and a catch of perhaps, 10,000 lbs of Reef Fish. At present the catch is divided almost evenly between indigenous and expatriate fishermen. However, it is anticipated that this situation will alter rapidly to a stage when indigenous fishermen will catch most of the fish.

The Kiwai Fishing Syndicate had a turnover of \$11,000.00 for the last season and after expenses the group made \$5,500.00. There are four other smaller groups operating and at least another three groups will join the fishing scene in the coming season.

Prices for Crayfish at \$1.00 per lb, in Daru, are good and it is not likely that anything developed here would alter the price gained. Barramundi, on the other hand, headed and gutted fetches only 15¢ per lb. (this is sold to large fishing companies who station processing boats in Daru during the season, and quite a high percentage is airfreighted out by the fishing companies and local business men). So, with Barramundi, there is a possibility of increasing the value of the product by processing locally and by direct marketing to southern markets.

With the advice and guidance of the Fisheries Officer, the Kiwai Fishing Syndicate looks to be expanding towards the eventual goal of processing and direct marketing. The major problem would seem to be the lack of management, material among the members of the group coupled with the understandable stresses and strains involved in turning casual fishermen into professionals.

By protecting the fishing groups near Daru the Administration has been responsible for the increased indigenous participation in this industry, and is considered to be adequate. This protection has been applied for nearly two years.

COPRA:

Copra production for Kiwai East runs at approximately 40 tons per annum and 20 tons for Kiwai West. This is a fairly low rate of production but, even so Copra production should be encouraged and assisted. There are two major reasons for this. Firstly, although the production is low, the potential is high particularly in the Kiwai Delta. Secondly, unless something positive is done in the already near deserted villages the area population shift to the urban areas will continue.

The Kiwai Council is providing five hot-air driers and making provision for buying a boat in the 1971/1972 financial year. As this boat will, no doubt, be run at a loss, I feel that the Administration should consider the possibilities of subsidizing the loss on the running of the boat to the figure of \$2,000.00 per year. (This suggestion was raised at the time of the Administrator's Executive Council's visit, and was passed over in favour of direct capital assistance towards a joint shipping venture between Councils to serve the area).

Mibu and Madiri Plantations are the only European run plantations in the area.

SAGO:

Because of the population drift there is excess amounts of sago throughout the area, and most village people finance their regular trips to Daru by bringing bundles of sago.

VEGETABLES:

Vegetables are not really a proposition for the Kiwai people because of the distance factor. (So that even with a boat this would not be a great source of income).

(4)

ECONOMIC (contd.)

RUBBER:

Apart from a small experimental planting of seedlings near Buji in the West Kiwai area during January this year, there has been little done to develop rubber. There is, however, a possibility of plantings being made at Buji by villagers on blocks they are clearing, also there is a possibility that some 90 acres will be planted near Koabu this year.

Madini Plantation has some 300 acres under rubber but production from these is running down and no new plantings are taking place. At this time, it appears that, for a plantation anyway copra is more profitable.

SOCIAL:

With 41% of the village people absent from the villages in Kiwai East, and 47% absent in Kiwai West, it is not hard to pinpoint the major social problem. The population drift has been rapid and damaging to village life. The three largest villages in Kiwai West which, I believe, were the largest in the District, are not only shadows of what they were: Mabaduan 58% of the population outside the village, Tureture 73% and Parama 79%.

Parama is, of course, the outstanding casualty. After enjoying education and mission facilities for probably as long as any village in Papua it now finds itself unable to support either a school or a Pastor. Perhaps this excessive drain was shocking enough to cause the remaining village people into action, as now they are building a church at a cost of approximately \$10,000.00. To finance this, the village have organised the collection of money from the large Parama community in Port Moresby. This and Mabaduan are the only villages which acknowledged any fairly large amounts of money being sent back to the village by those who are absent.

The immediate problem is to make the villages more attractive to live in, and this can only be done by improving the lot of the villager. This means goods and services that the villager will, himself, have to pay for. Opportunities for making money in the village will have to be provided if the drift is to be stopped.

The introduction of Urban Local Government in Port Moresby, by the levying of tax on these Kiwais at present evading tax, might encourage these without jobs to return, if not to their own villages to Daru anyway.

As the resident population has decreased so has the influence and financial standing of the United Church. In fact, it would appear, that without the newly issued Weeden Report and the assistance that it recommends for mission schools, the United Church might well have dropped out of the education field altogether.

Other missions have joined the United Church in the area. Notably the Montfort Catholic Mission, which has made considerable in-roads, in terms of numbers following it. Montfort mission has also made a considerable contribution to education in the Kiwai area and also elsewhere in the Western District. As the Montfort mission schools offer at least two European teachers they have been able to gain more assistance from the village people they serve. With the strong financial backing from Canada, the mission supports two schools on Daru, one each at Samari and Terere and is planning to construct a further school at Sui.

SOCIAL (contd.)

The relationship between the United Church and the other missions that have entered the field has been uniformly good. However, the latest arrival, the "Paranatha" mission, is going through a pretty strained period of time in its relationship with the United Church and vice versa of course.

EDUCATION:

The rate of school attenders in the Kiwai area is high compared with other parts of the Territory. The black spot in coverage for education, and most other services, is the North Bank Fly.

The Weedon Report and its recommendations have been particularly welcomed by the United Church whose schools previously were educating children to Standard 2 only. With the new system these schools will take children right through to Standard 6, although the number of children receiving education will drop.

Education will need to become a major concern of the Local Government Council.

HEALTH:

Overall the coverage of Aid Posts is good compared to other areas.

LAW AND ORDER:

Several complaints were made to the Patrol and these were investigated, and as a result a number of persons were sent to Daru to be dealt with by the Resident Magistrate. The complaints were varied and formed no particular pattern apart from highlighting the fact that the North Bank Fly is somewhat of a problem. A lot more attention should be paid to this area.

CONCLUSION:

Transportation is part of the answer to the problems both Social and Economic of these two Census Divisions. The biggest problem, however, is how to motivate the people in the villages to produce Copra and to develop Rubber Blocks for the future. From this, my first look at the area, I would think that a properly organised Shipping and Copra Buying Venture could be successful.

Stage 1 of such a project, the identifying of areas of Copra potential, has already been done. The Kiwai Council has embarked on a programme of building hot-air driers in these areas.

Stage 2 should be intensive patrolling by Government Officers and by Councillors to evaluate the peoples reaction to such a venture. If, after seeing that the Government and the Council are prepared to assist them and the people are found to actively support the venture - go ahead. However, if there is no clear indication that the people are really keen on the idea it should rest there. (In this context the indication would mean something that had actually been done).

Stage 3 purchase of a boat if the interest has been shown by the people i.e. they are producing more Copra.

2

CONCLUSION (contd)

I think it is most important that there are some positive steps taken by the Council to show that it really appreciates the problem. So that in discussions with villagers it will be possible to raise the point, that "the Council has done something to help you, now, what are you going to do to prove your good faith before the Council spends \$18,000.00 on a boat?"

It is of paramount importance that the villagers be fully committed to the project before the money is.

D. R. Thomas

(David R. Thomas)

ASSISTANT PATROL OFFICER.

1

Fly River

MORSEHEAD
Sub-District

OROMO/BITURI
LOCAL GOVT.
COUNCIL

OROMO
AGRIC.
STATION

Panaji R.

BITURI

BOG

TRESTIME

HANITA

TARATA BICO BICOLI MASAOLIAN

DARU

BARU

