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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: EAST SEPIK

STATION: MAPRIK

VOLUME No: 20

ACCESSION No: 496.

1969 - 1970

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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MAPRIK EAST SEAK
 ACCESS NO. 496
 VOL, NO: 20 : 1969/70 NUMBER OF REPORTS: 1

REPORT NO	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	PAGES/PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL
1 4 OF 1969/70	1-55	D.P. MARONEY ADC	WESTERN ISLANDS WUVULU x AUA ISLAND	47-48	5.10.69 - 21.10.69

10 of 69/70 C.J. Rawlings North and South Wosera

H.B.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

DISTRICT OF East Sepik REPORT NO. No. 10 of 1969/70

PATROL CONDUCTED BY C.J. Rawlings
North and South Wosera Census Division, Part Tamai and
AREA PATROLLED part Gavanga Census Division

PATROL ACCOMPANIED BY EUROPEANS NIL

NATIVES R.P.N.G.C.

DURATION - FROM 1/12/1969 to 16/6/1970

NUMBER OF DAYS 169

DID MEDICAL ASSISTANT ACCOMPANY? NIL

LAST PATROL TO AREA BY - DISTRICT SERVICES /1969/70

MEDICAL /19.....

MAP REFERENCE

OBJECTS OF PATROL General Administration

POPULATION 18,097.....

Director of District Administration

PORT Moresby

Forwarded, please.

2217/1970

E. J. Hertz

District Commissioner

AMOUNT PAID FOR WAR DAMAGE COMPENSATION \$.....

AMOUNT PAID FOR D.N.E. TRUST FUND

AMOUNT PAID FOR P.E.D.O. TRUST FUND

.....

67-8-86

Division of District Administration,

KOROROBU. Papua.

17th August, 1970.

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
HEWAK.

MAPRIK PATROL NO. 10/69-70

Your reference 67-1-4 of 22nd July, 1970.

I acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of Situation Report by Mr. C.J. Rawlings, Patrol Officer, of the NORTH WOSERA and SOUTH WOSERA Census Divisions.

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

In the 1970/71 Estimates no request was made for further funds for the WOSERA Base Camp. I suggest you make further application under my file reference 1-19-19.

Ten copies of requested maps are attached.

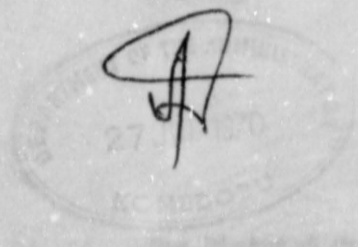
T.W. Ellis
(T.W. Ellis)
Secretary,
Department of the Administrator.

C.C.
Mr. C.J. Rawlings,
Sub-District Office,
MAPRIK.
East Sepik District.

67-8-86

35

67-1-4



Division of District
Administration,
District Office,
WEMAK. East Sepik District.

22nd July, 1970.

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
MARLIK.

PATROL NO. 10 OF 1969/70 - WOSERA

Thank you for the above report together with your covering memorandum 67-3-7 of 15th July.

For your information, the land has already been purchased for the establishment of the base camp at Wosera and \$1500 worth of materials were forwarded earlier this year. Please advise what progress to date has been made with the building of this low cost O.I.C.'s house.

For your information, District Administration Headquarters have plans in hand for the establishment of Deputy Lands Titles Commissioners in each District, and when such plans are finalised no doubt the land problems in the Wosera area will be the first priority for such a Deputy Lands Titles Commissioner who is posted to this District.

The extension of the road into the re-settlement area is dependent on many factors - mainly the location and site of the two high risk/low cost bridges scheduled for this financial year. It is proposed that one bridge will be at a site over the Amagu River and the other over the Nanu. However, the exact locations will be decided by the Department of Public Works.

The Waskuk Road (or Waskuk/Gwanga Road) is progressing favourably from the Ambunti end and Rural Development Funds are to hand for the Ambunti Council and also for the Dreikikir Council for this road link. At the conclusion of the next District Co-Ordinating Committee Meeting, which is scheduled for 4th August, you will be advised of the amount of money available for the Dreikikir Council.

Funds have been requested for the completion of the Wosera Base Camp. However, you are requested to submit a progress report of what has been achieved to date.

On the return of Mr. Agg, please consider sending him to the Wosera Base Camp for full time duties.


(E. G. HICKS)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

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

For your information and records please.

It would be appreciated if ten copies each could be made of the attached maps please.


(E. G. HICKS)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

67-3-7

JAW/cl

Division of District Administration,
Sub-District Office,
MAPRIK

15th July, 1970

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WEWAK

REPORT ON MAPRIK PATROL 10 - 1969/70
NORTH AND SOUTH WOSERA CENSUS DIVISIONS

Enclosed is the original and two copies of the Report on Maprik Patrol 10 of 1969/70 which is, basically, an account by Mr. C.J. Rawlings of his tenure at the Wosera Base Camp. The Report was submitted immediately prior to his departure on leave.

2. Many points made in the diary, report and appendices have been covered by correspondence from this office at the time they occurred. I add the following points:-

(a) The Post is unmanned at this time and will remain so until Mr. Agg, Patrol Officer, returns at the end of this month. So far no incidents in the areas indicated by Mr. Rawlings (Appendix B) have occurred. The "all or nothing approach" suggested by Mr. Rawlings is in the present situation, an impossible approach. I am very doubtful as to whether the people will be prepared to resolve their problems in the foreseeable future. Rather, I feel that the only approach we can adopt at this time is to treat disputes as they arise with the machinery existing today. This would of necessity involved an experienced officer for some many years and would only be a shade better than our present approach using a Land Titles Commissioner when we can do the ground work for the Commissioners Hearing and when we can secure a Commissioner for the hearing.

The file in this office on Wosera land problems and resettlement is now two inches thick and we still appear to be in the same situation which existed in 1963 with the exception that the people and individuals are becoming more politically aware. The Wosera people have been concerned with land disputes for so long now that I believe this has become part and parcel of their custom and to try and achieve an overnight solution is attempting the impossible - hence an earlier comment.

The only solution I can see is to put one of our experienced officers in the area with a large Police detachment, make him a Land Titles Commissioner and leave him there for several years. That is unless the Director of Lands in his recommendations following his study of land problems both in the Territory and Overseas, can put forward another solution.

33

(b) The description of a road route from Wosera to Ambunti (and thus providing a Wewak-Ambunti road link) is of considerable interest, but I feel, well beyond the scope of the two Councils and local people to achieve. I am not aware of the background nor any possible correspondence on this route but I would certainly recommend a feasibility study of the possible routes if this could be undertaken upon Administrative instruction.

(c) I recall that in the initial planning of the Gawanga resettlement scheme, the whole basis of this was to hinge on the construction of a vehicular road from the resettlement area through the Wosera to Maprik. This has never been constructed, although I have been told that the two bridges will be on the 1970/71 works Programme. I can see little success for the resettlement area unless we can get a good all weather road (to 4 wheel drive vehicles standard). The Scheme has not completely failed-it can be rejuvenated if there is access.

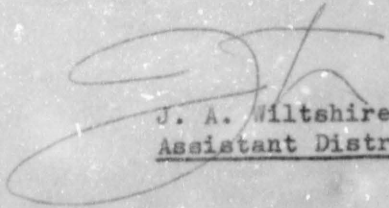
(d) I am hopeful that the establishment of the Wosera Patrol Post this year and the associated services to be installed there will enable us to step up the political education programme there as the people have a long way to go to catch up to other parts of the Sub-District in this respect. I have found that quite often the charges of apathy to Councils and resentment to pay Council tax is because of a communication block between (a) Council and Councillor and (b) Councillor and people and at first sight Wosera appears to be at this stage. Here again, intensive political education at the village level should reduce this somewhat.

(e) D.A.S.F. inform me that economic development in the Wosera is unique and the degree to which it has developed to today has been far beyond expectations. I recall in earlier years that little economic development was expected to take place because of the land/pop. pressures in most villages, particularly the North Wosera and indeed little encouragement was given because of this. The development that has taken place is indicative of the peoples energy (perhaps diverted from land disputes?) and endeavours. But here again the problem of access and good bridges are limiting the degree to which economic development can be exploited.

3. At the moment I see that our most pressing achievements will be to get the Wosera Patrol Post built and functioning, get stuck into some intensive political education, make a start on the lands disputes (when our approach has been decided on) and do a Census of the complete Wosera area (last done in 1968). With your concurrence these will be part of Mr. Aggs instructions when he takes up duty at the beginning of next month.

4. Two sketch maps, one of the possible road route to Ambunti and one of the resettlement area are also enclosed. Could you have 10 copies of each made and returned to this office please?

5. Claims for Camping Allowance are enclosed.


J. A. Wiltshire
Assistant District Commissioner

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

32

REPORT of MAPRIK Patrol No.10 of 1969/70

MAPRIK sub-district

EAST SEPIK District

SPECIAL Patrol - Supervision of the Wosera Local Government Council as Administrative Adviser - General Administration

CONDUCTED BY C.J.Rawlings Patrol Officer through North and South Wosera census divisions and part Tamaui and part Gawanga census divisions, those in the Wosera Council

ACCOMPANIED BY various members of the R.P.N.G.C. who worked in pairs for fortnightly periods (generally) from Maprik Police station and from Wewak.

LAST PATROL was MAPRIK No.9 of 1969/70 conducted by C.J.Rawlings

POPULATION is 18,097 per 1968/69 figures - no V.P.R. attached

DURATION from 1/12/69 to 16/6/70 - 169 days.

INTRODUCTION: As mentioned in Maprik report No.9, the land for the Base Camp has been surveyed and the purchase documents are to hand. The funds are believed to be in Lae, and advice has been received that no building can take place until the land has been purchased. The \$1500 allocated to the construction of a low cost O.I.C's house has been committed and the building materials are held in the council store. Application has been made for a further \$1000 to complete this house and an office.

Balance

In report 9 it was stated that the area is 420 sq.miles. This is incorrect. The North Wosera c/d is 76 sq.miles and the South Wosera c/d is 59 sq.miles, a total of 135 sq.mls. The council area includes a further 34 miles from the Gawanga and Tamaui c/ds and has a total area of 169 square miles.

Refer Maprik reports 1,7 and 9 for details re topography etc. Rainfall average over the past five years has been a little over 70" - since 1st. July 1969, 32.33" of rain has fallen and for the last month, supposedly the 'dry', some 703 points fell - there has not been a long dry spell since last year and this has had the effect of making the river crossings unreliable since late September and the roads have been generally wet, making communications and carriage of stores, building materials etc. rather haphazard.

31

PATROL DIARY

Monday, 1st. December, 1969

At Weikor village, discussions with councillors and others re House of Assembly and prostitution (see confidential memorandum to A.D.C. Maprik). Spoke to Mr. F. Urschitz of South Seas Evangelical Mission, re the people's thinking and their appreciation or otherwise of mission work. Lunch at mission. (The writer had initially departed Wosera 29/11/69 intending to walk to Ambunti via Nungwaia to check road route - however, a leg injury prevented this, to the extent of being flown out of Nungwaia.) Departed Nungwaia 1430 by M.A.F. Cessna to Assemblies of God Mission at Jambitanget. Mr. T. Woodhouse of Jambi. drove writer to Nanu River where Miss. M. Linane of Kaugia Catholic Mission took him to Saikingwandu 1700. Medical treatment at Kaugia en route.

Tuesday 2nd. December, 1969

Organised work of tractors - issued road making equipment and explained road building methods to the villages of Balampta, Rubukim, Waigamaga. Most of the day in checking council suspense stocks. Discussions p.m. with clerk and other council employees re effectiveness of council.

Wednesday 3rd. December, 1969

Arranging pickup of council tractor, seized in Amogu river from running without oil. Building materials taken to Nanu and Jambitanget.

By bike to Patukua to meet Co-ordinator of Transport and party but missed them by couple of minutes - on to Maprik by bike for medical treatment and to check council goods with Mr. Hovey at Hayfield. Returned Wosera 1400 and attended Kaugia school concert per invitation.

Thursday 4th. December, 1969

Repaired council mower - two hours a.m.
Writing patrol report.

Friday 5th. December, 1969

Writing patrol report. Have flu. and leg injury playing up; will go to Maprik tomorrow if no improvement. Slept Saikingwandu.

Saturday 6th. December to Wednesday 10th. December, 1969

At Maprik

.... / 3

30

Thursday 11th. December, 1969

To Wosera 1030 hrs. by bike.
General council meeting - visit by Dr. V.
Stocklin of Maprik to speak to councillors 1430.
Numerous enquiries and complaints.
Slept Wosera.

Friday 12th. December, 1969

Several minor complaints and four Local
Courts a.m. Entries to Births, Marriages and Deaths registers
and tax collection in afternoon. Completed check of minor items
and stocks and brought registers up to date. Finished mower repair.
Slept Saikingwandu.

Saturday 13th. December, 1969

Observed Wosera. Informal discussions p.m.
with people of Kumunikim village.

Sunday 14th. December, 1969

By bike over roads from Saikingwandu to Nanu
River, Babmo, Jambitanget, Jipmago, Yambigo checking maintenance.
Fr. Davitt and other mission staff in for dinner.

Monday 15th. December, 1969

Organised movement of tractors. Distributed
road equipment. By bike from Kaunselgwandu to Numbungei,
Wombisa, Kamgei etc. checking road maintenance and advising
people on methods of work - took names for prosecutions. A
police enquiry re the death of child by sorcery and complaint
of threatening behaviour as result of above, Spoke to Sister at
Kunjingini and had lunch there.

Returned Saikingwandu - Mr. F. Haynes, S.L.G.O.
in for audit of council.

Tuesday 16th. December, 1969

In council office - Mr. Haynes auditing.
Check on road maintenance p.m.

Wednesday 17th. December, 1969

Compiling confidential report. Writing letters
for both council and Administration. Handover/Takeover with
clerk completed (going on, leave 6 weeks). Discussed council with
Mr. Haynes. Demonstrated how to assemble wheelbarrows to labourers.

29

Thursday 18th. December, 1969

Mr. Haynes auditing.
Local Courts and numerous complaints all day.
Slept Saikingwandu.

Friday 19th. December, 1969

Arrangements made for Mr. Haynes to be picked up at Kaunselgwandu (Saikingwandu). Numerous complaints mostly of a trivial nature. Several Local Courts.

By bike to Kunjingini with Mr. Haynes at 1535 hrs. when advice received that no car was coming to the council camp. Returned and slept Saikingwandu.

Saturday 20th. Sunday 21st. December, 1969

At Wewak personal shopping.

Monday 22nd. December, 1969

Returned Wosera 1200 - general office work.
Check on road maintenance, by bike.
Informal discussions during late afternoon re council and the possibility of the patrol post being built.
Slept Wosera.

Tuesday 23rd. December, 1969

Collecting council tax - issuing trade store licences. Several minor complaints heard.
Compiling lists of Luluais and Tultuls.

Wednesday 24th. December, 1969

One Local Court. Cleared up several complaints and letters written. Organised tractor work for Christmas/New Year period. To Maprik p.m. discussed area with Mr. Neal A.D.C. Thence to Dreikikir.

Thursday 25th. December to Thursday 8th. January, 1970

Absent from Wosera - routine work Maprik/Wewak, Rural Development Submissions - purchasing building materials.

Friday 9th. January, 1970

To Wosera 0800 hrs. by bike. Several minor complaints adjusted and cleanup of office arranged. Collected some council tax. Court records entered.

Discussions with several councillors re the council rules that have been approved to date and their need to be enforced to be effective. Discussed the present situation re tax rules and the opinion was expressed that unless the House

5 -

(28)

of Assembly passed legislation enforcing the tax rule, the council, in this area anyway, would cease to function as no-one would pay tax. Slept Saikingwandu.

Saturday 10th. January, 1970

Observed.

Sunday 11th. January, 1970

Observed. Had dinner ^{at} with the Kaugia mission.

Monday 12th. January, 1970

Issued road maintenance equipment. By bike on road maintenance check. Going through tax registers to check tax defaulters - a number of informations withdrawn as people have since paid their tax. Assembling of office furniture. Slept Wosera.

Tuesday 13th. January, 1970

Moved into council office complete and office organised. Buildup of mail over Christmas period cleared. Routine office matters.

Wednesday 14th. January, 1970

Council committee meetings - adviser acted as clerk who is absent on leave. Some tax collected and trading licences issued. Several complaints adjusted.

Thursday 15th. January, 1970

General council meeting most of day. Several minor complaints adjusted. A couple of permits given to purchase shotguns. General council mail.

Friday 16th. January, 1970

Council duties. Inspected work on council projects at Nanu River P.T.S. Assisted Head Teacher to set up his radio transceiver and generator. Discussed council work with Mr. T. Woodhouse at Jambitanget and the council's contribution to teacher's housing. Inspected road work Wembisa and Kangei roads. Several minor complaints adjusted. Tax collected, licences issued. Discussions re land dispute Alesiki (Nala/Miko villages). Slept Wosera ✓

27

Saturday 17th. January, 1970

At Wosera - a.m. on council books. Towed the council tractor to Maprik p.m. for repairs.
Returned Wosera 1830 hrs.

Sunday 18th. January, 1970

Observed Wosera.

Monday 19th. January, 1970

Supervised road maintenance Kamgei, Maundu, Wombisa, Mikau, Mul. Assisted work on Amogu river crossing at Kunjingini. Worked on council books p.m.

Tuesday 20th. January, 1970

In office on council books. Issued road maintenance equipment. Several complaints heard. To Maprik p.m. by bike to discuss area with Mr. Neal A.D.C. Organised movement of council tractors to Kunjingini and to Wewak. Arranged registration etc. of new tractor and trailer with Mr. Hovey at Hayfield. Returned and slept Wosera 1800 hrs.

Wednesday 21st. January, 1970

Supervision of maintenance of council grounds. Inspected work at Nanu River. Informal discussions with men at Wombisa p.m.

Thursday 22nd. January, 1970

Variation of estimates preparation. Other routine council matters; tax collecting, entering of births etc. Slept Wosera.

Friday 23rd. January, 1970

Numerous minor complaints adjusted. Most of the day spent in discussions of land tenure and of usurping of sago creeks by rival villages. All advised that answer to this problem lies with them alone.

Saturday 24th. January, 1970

To Hayfield - discussed council equipment with Mr. Hovey. Returned and slept Wosera.

Sunday 25th. January, 1970; Monday 26th. January, 1970

To Dreikikir; Australia Day observed, to Wewak p.m. with Uni. students who had worked for Dreikikir council in holidays. Returned Wosera 1950.

26

Tuesday 27th. January, 1970

To Maprik a.m. by bike - discussed work with A.D.C. Neal. Returned Wosera and discussed a couple of likely trouble spots (over sago/land disputes) with councillors. Inspected road work en route Saikingwandu. Heard a couple of complaints arising from the work done on Land disputes by Mr. L.Hicks patrolling along the Maprik/Wosera border.

Slept Wosera.

Wednesday 28th. January, 1970

Council books and routine office work. To Wombisa by bike - cursory village inspection. Census revised Wombisa - completed 1810. Taxpayers meeting held. Returned to Saikingwandu 2100 in heavy rain.

Thursday 29th. January, 1970

Assembled Terrace Blade and spent morning instructing tractor driver in its use. To Wapindugum p.m. by bike but only a few people present for census - brief village inspection. Discussed proposed programme of taxpayers meetings with council president. Returned council camp 1600 - worked an hour with terrace blade. Spoke to some 40-50 men of Rubukim re land disputes. Slept Saikingwandu.

Friday 30th. January, 1970

Further instruction to driver re terrace blade. Numerous minor complaints adjusted. A taxpayers meeting held at Saikingwandu - over 1200 men present. Collected some tax, also issued trade store licences. Discussed the likelihood of early self-government with a number of men who had heard some news items that were about this. (correspondence to Maprik on this.)

Saturday 31st. January, 1970

Saturday to Maprik by bike. Discussions with Mr. Neal A.D.C. Returned Wosera 1600 in torrential rain.

Sunday 1st. February, 1970

Observed.

Monday 2nd. February, 1970

Checked road maintenance. By bike to Jambitanget for taxpayers meeting. Some 300 men present. Continued to Wapindumaga where about 450 men assembled for taxpayers meeting. Returned Saikingwandu 1630, in heavy rain. Left bike at Nanu, then walked to Wosera, council camp.

25

Tuesday 3rd. February, 1970

Men from Maundu in for land dispute - showed Mr. Paichua Clerical Assistant how to take statements for this. Discussed the dispute at some length but was offered no reason why they (the Maundu men) had cut sago belonging to Rubukim. This dispute had been 'resolved' some 18 months ago by the demarcation committees. (see appendix. A)

Entering court cases - clearing outstanding correspondence re minor complaints. Trade store licences issued. Collected bike from Nanu River and heard a couple of complaints re sorcery. A complaint of theft at Babmu Catholic Mission to be investigated.

Wednesday 4th. February, 1970

Maundu men in again, re above dispute. Council committee meetings till 1800. Five year Plan discussed at length also variations to estimates. Slept Saikingwandu.

Thursday 5th. February, 1970

On council books and general office work. To Rubukim for taxpayer's meeting. Some 200 men present but discussions re council work and five year plan eventually gave way to violent attacks of abuse hurled between the five groups present re land/sago disputes.

Returned Saikingwandu 1700 in heavy rain.

Friday 6th. February, 1970

Many minor complaints adjusted. Local Courts throughout day, till 1700.

Saturday 7th. February, 1970

At Wosera.

Sunday 8th. February, 1970

To Kunjingini - discussed truancy with the Sisters at the Catholic Mission.

Monday 9th. February, 1970

To Kunjingini by bike for taxpayers meeting. Checked and discussed road maintenance en route. To Maprik to see A.D.C. re land disputes. Returned Wosera 1300. Typed council minutes and completed other council correspondence.

Slept Saikingwandu.

Tuesday 10th. February, 1970

By bike to land known as Raga to check on infringement by Kunjiagini men - offenders taken to Maprik. To Serangwandu p.m. after bike serviced - taxpayers meeting with some 200 present. General discussions re the council Five year Plan. Numerous complaints heard.

Returned and slept Saikingwandu 1800.

Wednesday 11th. February, 1970

Local Courts most of day. A police investigation re fighting. Council correspondence. Kaugia mission in for dinner.

Thursday 12th. February, 1970

Council work - accounts etc.

General council meeting till 1655. A.D.C. in to speak to a number of people re land disputes and to speak to council meeting.

Friday 13th. February, 1970

Local Courts till 1400. Then to Maprik by bike for court over land Raga. Returned Wosera in torrential rain at 1950. Slept Wosera.

Saturday 14th. February, 1970

One Local Court a.m. Brother Pat of Kaugia C.M. in for dinner (has spent 38 years in Sepik District).

Sunday 15th. February, 1970

To Maprik with inmate for Dreikikir C.I. Met Mr. K. Dyer, Director D.D.A. Returned Wosera 1820.

Monday 16th. February, 1970

Prepared D.I.V.s for patrol post materials. To Maprik by bike for land court, completed 1900. Returned Wosera 2030 hrs.

Tuesday 17th. February, 1970

Clerk returned from leave (council clerk). On council books and mail. Informations for tax defaulters prepared and showed clerk how to do same. Local Courts most of day till 1730. Slept Saikingwandu.

Wednesday 18th. February, 1970

Local Courts most of day; Inspector Rae and S/Insp. Haze in to inspect Rural Police Post and present police house.

23

Thursday 19th. February, 1970

Local courts a.m. Entering court papers, warrants of commitment etc.

On council books.

Friday 20th. February, 1970

Two Local Courts a.m. Departed Wosera 1100 by bike as the bike has to be returned to Wewak for replacement. Flat tyre en route - picked up by P.H.D. car. Spoke to Nainda councillor re road maintenance.

Slept Maprik.

Saturday 21st. February, 1970

Returned Wosera 1400 hrs.

Sunday 22nd. February, 1970

Preparing to depart to Ambunti to find a possible road route (first attempted by the writer on 29/11/69).

Monday 23rd. February, 1970

Council office work. D.I.Vs for Patrol Post completed and general office tidy-up.

Departed Saikingwandu for Jambitanget 1110 hrs.

Arrived 1300 - discussed proposed school site with A.O.G. mission and villagers. Pace and compass survey of approximately 3 acres. Informal discussions during evening with men of Jambitanget and Lingu village. Discussed the questions put out by the Political Education Officer Mr. Blackburn of which I held some copies. Slept Jambitanget.

Tuesday 24th. February, 1970

Departed Jambitanget 0815 for Nungwaia.

Arrived Nungwaia 1500 in heavy rain, following vehicular road most of the way. Spoke to Mr. and Mrs. F. Urschitz of the S.S.E. Mission. Informal talks with men of Ugutagwa, Jambitanget and Nungwaia in evening - Political Education questionnaires again used. Slept Nungwaia.

Wednesday 25th. February, 1970

Departed Nungwaia 0700 to Gawanga Re-settlement area which was practically deserted. Looked for possible road site from camp to Yipunda (Yimi) River which was flooded. Crossed by canoe at 1700 hrs. Arrived hamlet Gulaka 2100 hrs. Slept Gulaka.

22

Thursday 26th. February, 1970

Departed Gulaka for Ambuken 0700 hrs.
Inspected possible road site en route. From Ambuken 1110 hrs.
after informal discussions with men of both Komanjui and Ambuken.
Arrived Komanjui 1550 hrs. Slept Komanjui.
(See appendices B & C)

Friday 27th. February, 1970

Left Komanjui 0700 hrs. Walked 1 hour to point
where cargo was despatched by canoe. (Point just below the
junction of the Pipunda and Amogu rivers) Continued walking 1 hr.
40 minutes more to Aid Post. Thence by pull canoe to Akamau
(Parlet of Yaunjanjei). Departed Akamau 1630 hrs. Arrived at
Ambunti 1930 hrs. Slept Ambunti.

Saturday 28th. February, 1970

Observed at Ambunti. Discussed road route and
also the Wosera area with Mr. J.C. Corrigan A.D.C. Ambunti.

Sunday 1st. March, 1970

Observed Ambunti

Monday 2nd. March, 1970

Departed Ambunti 0930 with A.D.O. Thomlinson
per river truck to Pagwi. Arrived 1300 hrs. Departed Pagwi
1400 hrs - to Wosera by car arriving 1610.
Slept Wosera.

Tuesday 3rd. March, 1970

Council returns.
One Local Court. Numerous small complaints.

Wednesday 4th. March, 1970

Local Courts a.m. Council committee meetings
11.1630. Balancing council books.

Thursday 5th. March, 1970

Numerous land/sago disputes - each one was
discussed at some length and advice was given that the solutions
lay with the disputants themselves. On council stocks check.
Slept Saikingwandu after informal discussions
with Consts. Sipori and Wai.

(21)

Friday 6th. March, 1970

Police investigations. Local Courts. Informal discussions during evening with police, council employees and a couple of councillors re possibilities of self-government in near future. Strong opinions put forward that T.P.N.G. not yet ready for self-government.

Slept Wosera.

Saturday 7th. March, 1970

To Maprik by bike a.m. with warrants of commitment. Sighted and signed confidential report. Returned Wosera 1400 - several complaints re destruction of food gardens.

Sunday 8th. March, 1970

To Dreikikir 1000 hrs to collect Nungwaia census sheets - returned p.m.

Monday 9th. March, 1970

Road inspection - Kumunikim, Gwaiwaru, Bepandu. Numerous complaints heard en route. Writing patrol report.

Tuesday 10th. March, 1970

Working on 2nd. Revised and Draft Estimates for council. Several complaints adjusted.

Wednesday 11th. March, 1970

Council estimates - special committee meeting for preparation of same, till 1815.

Thursday 12th. March, 1970

Council estimates. General council meeting 1030 hrs. to 1715 hrs. New tax rule passed to make 18 years the age limit rather than seventeen. This was discussed at length. Numerous enquiries and complaints after meeting.

Friday 13th. March, 1970

Discussions and questions with a dozen or so men re the Political Education questionnaires. Balancing council books and making out tax rules.

Saturday 14th. March, 1970

To Maprik a.m. to see A.D.C. re council rules. Returned and slept Wosera p.m.

20

Sunday 15th. March, 1970

To Nungwaia p.m. by council vehicle.
Informal talks during evening.
Slept Nungwaia.

Monday 16th. March, 1970

Census revision 613 people. Some 100 new names recorded as part of census book missing. Taxpayers meeting. Dined at S.S.E. Mission at Nungwaia. Informal talks late evening. Slept Nungwaia.

Tuesday 17th. March, 1970

Census revision Weikor village - 384 people. Taxpayers meeting and general discussions re council work and prospects. Discussed political parties to answer questions re the difference between the Pangu Pati and the Christian Democratic party (now defunct).

Departed Weikor 1500 - arrived Wosera 1800.
Slept Saikingwandu.

Wednesday 18th. March, 1970

Numerous minor complaints for a couple of hours. Heated discussion re land Alesiki between Mikau and Nala. Four Local Courts. Showed clerk how to draw up council estimates and covering memo.

Thursday 19th. March, 1970

To Kunjingini to check on brick machine and to get council tractor out of river. Returned via Kitigum, seeing to a couple of minor complaints en route.

Numerous minor complaints for a couple of hours.

Friday 20th. March, 1970

Local Courts all day. A couple of complaints.

Saturday 21st. March, 1970

Observed at Wosera.

Sunday 22nd. March, 1970

Observed Wosera.

Monday 23rd. March, 1970

Trying to balance council books.

19

Tuesday 24th. March, 1970

To Wombisa to check work on Rural Health Centre going up there. Checked on road maintenance en route and returned via Kitigum. Short discussions with several men of Kitigum re absentees from area and how to get them back. Also discussed the various sources of revenue for the Admin. and related this to the fact that the Amogu and Nany River bridges not yet built.

Wednesday 25th. March, 1970

Working on council books again. Showing Clerical Asst. how to take statements from land disputants. Several sago disputes in. People again told that solution lay with them.

Informal talks during evening with men from several nearby villages and council employees.

Slept Saikingwandu.

Thursday 26th. March, 1970

Preparation of estimates with clerk(council). Showed D.D.A. clerk how to make out informations, summonses etc.

Slept Wosera.

Friday 27th. (Good Friday) to Monday 30th. March, 1970

Easter observed Wosera. Report received Sunday of fight between Miko and Nala(over sago), but Maprik Police already taken action.

Tuesday 31st. March, 1970

Public Service Holiday(half a day on council books). Slept Wosera.

Wednesday 1st. April, 1970

Handover of council books to clerk.

Tested several applicants as council drivers (of tractors). Discussed with council committee members the various responsibilities that they and the clerk should have, and the things they could do that would relieve the adviser of certain tasks.

Thursday 2nd. April, 1970

To nearby Isogum cattle project with Mr. K. Parkes, of D.A.S.F. Bainyik. Discussed Development Bank loans with Parkes and several men who wished to apply for them. Local Courts p.m.

Slept Saikingwandu.

(18)

Friday 3rd. April, 1970

Local Courts and numerous complaints all day.

Saturday 4th. April, 1970

Observed Wosera.

Sunday 5th. April, 1970

Observed.

Monday 6th. April, 1970

To Maprik a.m. to see Commissioner for Local Government Mr. Williamson with several councillors and clerk. Returned Wosera p.m. after discussing land disputes with Mr. Neal A.D.C. and Mr. Buttner, A.D.O. Yangoru. (particularly section 15(a) L.T. Ordinance. Slept Wosera.

Tuesday 7th. April, 1970

Complaints - sago disputes, pig damage and shooting of pigs, complaints by and against Malaria Control Teams (see confidential correspondence to A.D.C. Maprik). Estimates typed and roneed for distribution.

Wednesday 8th. April, 1970

Council committee meetings. Local Courts p.m. Arranged for prefabricated house bought by council to be carried from Kunjingini to river.

Thursday 9th. April, 1970

To Kunjingini with clerk to check that all the parts for house were present. Returned 1200 hrs. discussing road maintenance with a couple of villages en route.

General council meeting. Duplicated tax and pig trespass rules in pidgin for general distribution. Local Courts and numerous complaints till 1810.

Friday 10th. April, 1970

Local Courts most of day. By bike to Kunjingini 1710 to check on materials left behind. Informal talks in evening with some councillors and Catholic Mission catechists.

Saturday 11th. April, 1970

Writing patrol report.
Dinner with Kaugia Mission.

Sunday 12th. April, 1970

Observed.

Monday 13th. April, 1970

By bike over roads Stapigum, Saragum, Gulakim, Jambitanget, Kunjingini, Mul, Kitikim, Kamgei etc. checking road maintenance.

Tuesday 14th. April, 1970

Police investigation of sorcery.
General office work.

Wednesday 15th. April, 1970

Collecting tax a.m. To Wewak p.m. by plane per request from D.C.
Slept Wewak.

Thursday 16th. April, 1970

Departed Wewak 1800 hrs. by car with A.D.C. Mr. Neal, after discussion with D.C. Arrived Maprik 2010 - departed 2040 hrs. arrived Wosera 2230 hrs. Slept Wosera.

Friday 17th. April, 1970

Local Courts most of day - to Maprik by bike 1540 hrs. to see Mr. M. Orken L.T.C.. Returned Wosera 1800 hrs. Slept Wosera.

Saturday 18th. April, 1970

Observed Wosera

Sunday 19th. April, 1970

Observed Wosera.

Monday 20th. April, 1970

General office routine. Duplicating council and court forms. Supervised preparations for foundations of new house. To Wombisa p.m. to check on work on health centre. Informal discussions with men at Wombisa re council.

Tuesday 21st. April, 1970

Local Courts till 1710 hrs. To Kunjingini with detainees for Corrective Institutions. Returned 1850 hrs.

(76)

Wednesday 22nd. April, 1970

Local Courts a.m. To Maprik 1300 hrs. with a badly burnt child and a girl of about 12-13 for examination re unlawful carnal knowledge and some detainees for C.I. Returned Wosera 1600 hrs. One Local Court. Office cleanup. Discussed the various forms of sorcery and the effects of sorcery till late evening with members R.P.N.G.C. and a councillor.

Slept Saikingwandu.

Thursday 23rd. April, 1970

General office routine - dates of birth for Public Service, outwards mail for both council and Admin. etc. Local Courts 1020 - 1700 hrs.

Friday 24th. April, 1970

To Maprik by bike 0630 hrs. to check on medical exam. (as above). Discussions with A.D.C. Neal. Returned 1230 hrs. Collected court fines and some council tax. Writing annual report. One sago dispute - the first the writer has seen where agreement reached by both parties! Local Courts 1400 - 1805.

Saturday 25th. April, 1970

Instructing police constables in filling out informations etc. ascertaining correct charges etc. To a sago dispute between Bepandu/Gwaiwary to see demarcation committees working.

Sunday 26th. April, 1970

Observed Wosera.

Monday 27th. April, 1970

Council estimates completed - typed. Check on road maintenance Kwanebandu, Bobmagum etc.

Tuesday 28th. April, 1970

Local Courts - tax cases mainly.

Wednesday 29th. April, 1970

Local Courts. Writing annual report.

Thursday 30th. April, 1970

To Kumunukim and Rubukim - discussions with several men re Select Committee's visit. Not much interest. Rest of day spent supervising bridge construction Balampta.

Friday 1st. May, 1970

15

Writing annual report.
Discussions with councillors Malken and Virau about self government and the need for the people to show some interest in improving their own lot before the government would do a great deal. Slept Wosera.

Saturday 2nd. May, 1970

Local Courts a.m.

Sunday 3rd. May, 1970

Observed - dined at Kaugia C.M.

Monday 4th. May, 1970

To Kunjingini by bike inspecting road work en route and advising on building culverts. Spoke to all standards at Kunjingini school at request of Head Teacher, re attendance. Answered questions re careers etc. Inquired re absence of both Miko and Nala people from school and from Kunjingini area generally. To Saikingwandu 1400 hrs. leaving bike at Kunjingini to be taken to Maprik for service. One Local Court (from Maprik area). ✓

Tuesday 5th. May, 1970

Covering memo. for draft estimates written. Ordering furniture etc. on D.J.Vs. Drawing plans for Base Camp O.I.C's residence. Two Local Courts. Mr. R. Bassingthwaite, T&I Dept. in to hold meetings of co-operative members. Slept Saikingwandu.

Wednesday 6th. May, 1970

Mr. Bassingthwaite collecting names for Sepik Producers Association at Kaunselgwandu. Spoke to some 200 men re benefits of joining society. Council committee meetings and mail written for council.

Thursday 7th. May, 1970

To Maprik to discuss council activities with Mr. F. Haynes S.J.G.O. and to see Sub-inspector Race re police investigations. Returned to Wosera, via Bobmagum, checking on road maintenance and advising councillor and A.P.O. on needed repairs to Aid Post that was almost completely destroyed by earthquakes; arrived 1800 hrs. ✓

Friday 8th. May, 1970

(14)

Fifty or so men in to discuss council hygiene rule and why they were not complying with it. Discussed the meeting by the Select Committee at Maprik - many of those who were present had been at the meeting and were perturbed that the Maprik people had made an agreement to ask for self-govt! and that the Wosera people had not been given the chance to talk; the most noticeable reaction to the meeting however was one of relative disinterest.

Six Local Courts.

Saturday 9th. May, 1970

Assembling storage cupboards (both office and low cost housing clothing cupboards) that had been begun by the clerk but knocked around quite a bit.

Sunday 10th. May, 1970

Observed Wosera.

Monday 11th. May, 1970

Typing Annual Report. Assisting to set up foundations for pre-fabricated house.

Tuesday 12th. May, 1970

Local Courts most of day - typing report.

Wednesday 13th. May, 1970

Local Courts. Discussed work of Malaria Control teams with team leaders. Summonses prepared and despatched. Annual report completed.

Thursday 14th. May, 1970

Council meeting 1100 - 1700. Local Courts 0800 to 1030. Discussed the Director of Lands' speech on land registration after meeting with a couple of councillors who were interested. Showed slides (personal ones) 1950 - 0030 hrs. Some 250 people enthusiastically present.

Friday 15th. May, 1970

Local Courts 0800 hrs. - 1720 hrs. unbroken.

Saturday 16th. May, 1970

Till 1400 hrs. on proposed Patrol Post site having walked boundaries with owners and discussed prices. All agreeable.

13

Sunday 17th. May, 1970

To Kunjingini by tractor with woman with broken ribs and a boy aged 9-10 with a broken leg; both had fallen from trees. Returned Saikingwandu 1310 with building materials for patrol post that had been at Kunjingini.

Slept Saikingwandu.

Monday 18th. May, 1970

Letters written for council. Discussed area with councillor Malken and Mr. L. Asimbi Local Government Officer, who arrived about 1100 hrs. Prepared summonses for tax defaulters.

Informal discussions during afternoon with a couple of councillors re the general opinion towards the council now, shown by most people.

Tuesday 19th. May, 1970

Local Courts most of day. General discussions re the need for council tax with some fifteen men in to pay tax. Worked on council books with Mr. Asimbi for a short time.

Wednesday 20th. May, 1970

To Wombisa to supervise some work on Aid Post and to inspect road maintenance tasks set earlier. A number of Local Courts. Collected some council tax.

Thursday 21st. May, 1970

Local Courts. Many complaints in re adultery, bride price etc. Checked on work at Wombisa 1800 hrs.

Friday 22nd. May, 1970

Local Courts. Court records, Warrants etc. Mail.

Saturday 23rd. May, 1970

To Wewak 0500 hrs. by road - returned Wosera 1900.

Sunday 24th. May, 1970

Observed.

Monday 25th. May, 1970

Letters written for native complaints. Inspection of work on police post and adviser's house. To Kunjingini by bike to inspect road work by Mul. Stacking building materials.

Tuesday 26th. May, 1970

Local Courts most of day. Discussions with Councillors Gwarupme and Maiken re advisability of buying a car for P.M.V. purposes. By bike to Ningilimbi/Lehinga 1730 to enquire re land dispute to be settled tomorrow by A.D.C.

Wednesday 27th. May, 1970

Confidential letters written. Discussed the building of Police Post with P.W.D. men. To Ningilimbi by bike to attend Local Court hearing on land dispute by A.D.C. Mr. Young-Whitford (however met his party on the way and returned to Wosera for a brief inspection.) Shortly discussed the area with Mr. Young-Whitford.

Discussed area with Mr. D. Agg (ex. Dreikikir) as he will probably be coming here on his return from the two month course in Port Moresby. Mr. S. Race, Police Officer Maprik in to inspect work on Police Post.

Thursday 28th. May, 1970

Several minor complaints, adjusted. Checking council and Administration stores. Making packing case for personal effects for storage on leave as stores advise none available. Mr. D. Steven, District Inspector in p.m. for routine visit. Discussed area with him p.m.

Friday 29th. May, 1970

Discussions with Mr. Stevens. Writing council's annual reports after his departure 1050 hrs.

Saturday 30th. May, 1970

Making packing case for personal effects.

Sunday 31st. May, 1970

To Maprik p.m. with Mr. Richards (D.A.S.F.) to collect motorbike from service. Returned Wosera 1700 hrs.

Monday 1st. June, 1970

Collected some council tax. Entries to Births and deaths registers. Checked road maintenance Isogum/Tugaukim. Writing patrol report. Slept Wosera.

Tuesday 2nd. June, 1970

Several enquiries and minor complaints adjusted. Writing reports (Adviser's, President's and Patrol).

Wednesday 3rd. June, 1970

Writing reports.

Council committee meetings. Numerous complaints adjusted. Discussing President's report with the President and Vice-president of the Council. (Presented with two parcels of pig's meat as gift from Kumunikim and Stapigum men for my assistance in getting their cow project under way.) see the Situation Report under Heading C.

Dined at Kaugia Catholic Mission as farewell to writer going on leave.

Thursday 4th. June, 1970

Writing reports. Several minor complaints. Repaired generator for radio batteries. To Wand by bike to see what repairs needed to suspension footbridge. Discussed several complaints about the school with the Head Teacher.

Met and talked with a S.D.A. pastor from the British Solomon Islands and a number of local men re the differences between the rate of development here and B.S.I.P. Local people very interested in pastor.

Friday 5th. June, 1970

Worked on Adviser's house. Several minor complaints adjusted. Writing reports. To Maprik by bike to see A.D.C. and Police officer. Four Local Court cases in Maprik. Returned Wosera 1730 hrs. Slept Saikingwandu.

Saturday 6th. June, 1970

Worked on Adviser's house. 1100 hrs. by bike over roads to Kwalngei, Bangelego, Jipmako etc. inspecting new work. Lunch with Catholic Priest at Babmu.

Returned Wosera 1700 hrs.

Sunday 7th. June, 1970

Observed Wosera.

Monday 8th. June, 1970

Worked on Wewak Timbers pre-fab. house. Collected some tax. Slept Wosera.

Tuesday 9th. June, 1970

Issued summonses. Writing reports. To land Kaunauru with Mr. R. Lachal A.P.O. to purchase site as patrol post. Walked boundaries of land and planted cement pegs with owners.

Land purchased. Returned Saikingwandu 1620 hrs.

Wednesday 10th. June, 1970

Numerous complaints, re bride price, pigs etc.
Writing reports. Checked books of council. Worked on house.

Thursday 11th. June, 1970

Typing report. Several Local Courts.
General council meeting. Numerous complaints and enquiries.
Slept Wosera.

Friday 12th. June, 1970

Local Courts a.m. (Council tax). Handover/Takeover
of council with Mr. L. Asimbi Local Government Officer completed p.m.
Maprik to return motorbike. One Local Court. Discussed use of
police in area with Insp. Race of Maprik. Returned Wosera 1700 hrs.
Slept Wosera.

Saturday 13th. June, 1970

To Dreikikir with detainees for C.I.
Slept Dreikikir.

Sunday 14th. June, 1970

Maprik.

Monday 15th. June, 1970

Queen's Birthday Hoiliday. One Local Court at
Wosera. Small party with councillors and local Catholic Mission.
Slept Wosera.

Tuesday 16th. June, 1970

At Wosera. Informal discussions p.m. with the
council employees. Slept Saikingwandu.

Wednesday 17th. June, 1970

Departed Wosera 1010 hrs. on recreation leave.

C.J. Rawlings

C.J. Rawlings.
(Patrol Officer)

(4)

SITUATION REPORT

(A) POLITICAL

(1) The following should be read in conjunction with the situation reports submitted under Nos. 1,7,9. It was initially stated that acceptance of the council was good. The council was, as were the Administration and Missions, accepted by the people because they saw it as another source of revenue or "cargo". This acceptance has been tempered by the knowledge that in fact, the council takes more than it appears to give and so it is possibly regarded more as an imposition on their lives than any great benefit. It is for this reason that the writer sees the proposed Bobmagum Road as possibly being the biggest boost to council prestige since the council began.

(2) The oft be-spoken spathy of the Wosera people is in the Nanu River area, the villages that are the subject of the various surveys. (Forge, Oxer etc.) and suffer the greatest land shortage. They will tend to accept everything that is done by outsiders who affect their lives. The people of Kwanebandu, Bobmagum, Tendegum and other villages in the north are similar to the bulk of the Maprik people, with a tendency to be somewhat truculent. This extends to the people of Kunjingini/Mul and to the Nala, Kupmabit villagers. There has been some comment made by those groups that they resent paying council tax and they expect to see more for their money. They have sufficient land and their income adequately covers the \$4.00 head tax. They are the ones also who will not work on roads etc. unless they are encouraged. In the South Wosera, Nungwaigo and Purago people are fairly recalcitrant and have objected to paying council tax. A number of men from that area who were imprisoned for non-payment of council tax returned and told the people they no longer had to pay tax. That was in 1966. There were no prosecutions in 67 or 68 and the number of defaulters increased each year. There were 188 tax prosecutions this year and much of the backlog of defaulters was cleared. Although the court cases initially brought a number of people in to pay tax, most defaulters waited the issuing of summons.

(3) Individual councillors seem to be getting more support from their people though there are many who were made the councillor because they carry little authority in their village and are largely disregarded by most people. More support by the officers-in-charge is helping the councillors.

(4) The House of Assembly and its functions is becoming better known. There was quite a bit of interest shown in the visit by the Select Committee on Constitutional Development and the council has written several letters to the Speaker of the House re certain problems, one being the question of the bridges over the Amogu and Nanu Rivers.

(5) The question of self-government has, the writer believes, become a reality to many and although the general feeling that the area is not yet ready for self-government, some realise that it may come sooner than they would wish. The Council President and Vice-President did not air the council's views to the Select Committee and the council has written a letter to the House of Assembly to ask that the Select Committee visit individual councils and more isolated areas rather than stick to District and Sub-district headquarters.

(6) Referring to paragraph 2 above, the writer does not envisage any drastic increase in tax defaulting though people will continue to resent paying tax until the road programme begins and they can see something for their money. Considering that any one man, assuming he has paid his tax each year since 1963, will have paid a total of only \$16 over that 4 year period, not too much can be expected.

(B) ECONOMIC.

(7) Coffee remains as the biggest money earner. Figures may be available from Bainyik. Rice growing seemed to be taking hold at this time last year but activity at present is not great.

(8) There are five cattle projects under way - three are ready to be stocked, 2 village ones and one at Kaugia Catholic Mission. D.A.S.F. are supervising these in conjunction with the Catholic Mission. The Councils' tractor will be used (gratis) to move stock (from Marui to Wosera). At Kwatmagum a cattle project is being undertaken under the name of the council driver (Michael) who has shown something of a flair for money-making. He has interests in a village-owned Toyota Landcruiser which he drove for a time, until he became employed by the council. He is making application for a Development Bank Loan of \$800 for his cattle project.

(9) Councillor Malken of Jambitanget, the council's vice-president is a go-ahead individual and his village has just bought a Daina truck (14 passengers). A Landcruiser bought by Ugutagwa village only ran for a couple of weeks then stopped and has been that way for some months. Isogum village started to collect money to buy a Landcruiser but only made \$500. Stepigum and other villages also raised about that amount. The officer has on numerous occasions pointed out that these proposals are uneconomic and are going to cause a lot of ill-feeling as many men who have put their hard earned \$5-\$10 towards a car are never going to get their money back let alone any profit. The number of P.M. Vehicles on the Sepik highway has grown to such numbers that there is little chance of making much profit. ✓

(10) About 130 men have left the area to go to the oil palm project at Cape Hoskins. Something more than 1000 applications have been lodged.

(C) SOCIAL.

(11) There have been 580 cases heard in the Local Court in the past 12 months. Of these, 330 were infringements of council rules. There was one fight over land in which one man was killed and 42 imprisoned for riotous behaviour.

(12) The Woman's club has not eventuated to date but teachers and the council employees are trying to organise a sports club to play soccer. They hope to be able to add a couple of teams to the Maprik area competition.

(14) Again there is little to add to previous reports.

C.J. RAWLINGS
(PATROL OFFICER)

(9)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

APPENDIX A

WOSERA LAND PROBLEMS

See also Paragraph 7 of Annual Report.

1) In Report No. 9, the few incidents of actual fighting over land/sago was mentioned. This state of comparative calm was continued, with the exception of a fight recently between *NALA* and *MIKO*, over sago usage, in which one man was killed.

2) It is highly probable, that as soon as the area is left without an officer again, for a time, there will be another outbreak of fighting. Places to watch would be:

- (a) Kwanebandu/Seragikim.
- (b) Nala/Kupmabit
- (c) Amunikim/Bepandu/Serawaru/Tadugu
- (d) Isogum/Bepandu, Mui
- (e) Nungawia/Ugutawa
- (f) Wapindumaga/Uwuloko (and probably all villages of Jipmago confederacy)

3) These places are not in any order of "preference" they are "pressure spots" that might be considered as being likely combat areas. The possibility that fights might break out on any front at all is quite high.

4) The writer feels that a number of people are genuinely worried about their tendency to fight over land and are really making an effort to solve their disputes. However this number is few and Miss Oxer's premise; "The only way this could be done" - to settle the disputes to everyone's satisfaction - "would be to somehow miraculously multiply the land by the number of disputing parties and, at the risk of appearing cynical, I would expect new disputes to arise in a matter of months", still applies. However, the fear of falling behind other areas in development is becoming apparent and this will undoubtedly encourage more people to resolve their land problems. See para 15 (j) Annual Report.

5) To make applications in the area for the Lands Titles Commissioner to settle disputes, in the writer's opinion, would do more harm than good. Many people are beginning to believe that they will have to solve their land problems themselves and if it was again "suggested" to them that an Administration Officer might come (i.e. the Commissioner) they would again sit back, grumble and wait for this event. To complete applications with all requirements (per D.D.A. Circular 36-1-2 of 19/5/70) would take one officer a minimum of 6 months, working full time. This would cover only land disputes, not sago ownership. In any case, it is unlikely that the Commission would find time to hear more than a few applications.

6) The area has little economic potential and would not warrant that amount of effort, particularly considering the staff shortage at present (1 A.D.C., 1 A.D.C., 2 P.O. (the writer going on leave 18/6/70) 1 A.P.O. - total of 6 for 102,000 people over an area of more than 1100 sq miles). To take the five or six most "important" ones and complete them, would be the "suggestion" that an officer was one day going to solve all their problems (land). To the people, regardless of the size of the dispute, all disputes are of the same importance. A Commissioner appearing on any one dispute would immediately bring to a head the disputes that "may be in the process of being resolved." Thus, in the writer's opinion, it must be all or nothing, with the emphasis on the "nothing" because of the Administration's lack of man power and resources to attend to the "all".

(4)

7) If a full time officer became available for a 6 month period, he would be more gainfully employed getting the Gawanga resettlement area under way again, on slightly different lines than at present (see appendix E)

8) The social structure in the Wosera overall is quite elastic and people can and will move to other hamlets or claim relationship with another totemic group and take rights of land usage from that adoptive clan. If a man goes to a new clan (i.e. he marries and moves to his wife's land) his children will expect to inherit his (his wife's) land/sago etc. Although traditionally they would have been considered the rightful heirs, this is not the case at the present time. Because of land pressure, and because of the decreasing significance of reciprocity, the sons of the original owners will not want to extend the rights of usage of this land to "outsiders". This is the case particularly when they know that the person in question is suing for land/sago rights back in his father's natal hamlet. The people in that hamlet are generally not keen on allowing the man to come back to his father's land. In this way, many men find themselves short of land/sago and to complicate matters, they may seek assistance or support from still another totemic group, who, for reasons unknown, although they too may not have a surfeit of land, adopt this gentleman.

9) While economic and food trees etc. may be planted anywhere, but are regarded as belonging to individuals, sago must be planted on land owned by the "kim" or "pisin" (totemic group) to which the individual belongs. As the sago grows, it has a tendency to follow the creek in which it is planted (i.e. suckers of the original, grow downstream). Traditionally, as this sago encroached onto that part of the creek owned by another land-owning group, the sucker would be removed and re-planted on the original land, or it may have been given to the group on whose land it had grown. In more recent years (perhaps the past 5-8) where sago has grown into another area, nothing has been said. As the sago grew to maturity, the land-owning group, naturally enough, would claim the sago. The original owner often tries to claim it. In most instances, there would be little objection to him cutting this sago, even though it is not on his land. However, the individual who plays along with this agreement is apparently rare. It appears that in most cases the sago was left to drift onto opposing kim land with the following idea in mind: instead of only claiming that one sago, an individual will claim all the sago within a given radius of his own palm. As he is claiming the sago, and sago can only be grown on land owned by him, then he tries to claim the surrounding land as well, which border line may be extended through opposing territory for any distance at all.

10) It is for this reason that the writer sees little to be achieved by half-hearted attempts to settle these disputes. Very few people (at the present) will admit to the true boundaries of land and it is impossible to obtain proof re the vagaries of the spread of sago. One side always stands to gain (often considerably) if they talk loudly and persuade whoever they are presenting their case to, that they have some right to the sago/land. Whatever the result, they will never be worse off so they are naturally going to press their claims as vehemently as possible.

APPENDIX B

7

WOSERA - AMBUNTI ROAD

- 1) Appendix 'C' is a fourmil sketch map of the area between Nungwaia in the Wosera Council area, and Ambunti. It shows the route of a vehicular road presently under construction between Ambunti and Tongwinjamb, the surveyed section between Nungwaia and the Gawanga Re-settlement area (surveyed by Willing, English and Devon during their 1967/68 survey of Sepik Road transport) and a couple of proposals for the sighting of a vehicular road between there and Ambunti.
- 2) The writer walked from the re-settlement area to Akamau on the Yimi River, between 24th February and 27th February, 1970. The track to the re-settlement was followed by the writer, and the cargo and a member of R.P.N.G.C. followed the direct route from Nungwaia to Gulaka on the Yimi River.
- 3) The walking track from Kamanjui going towards Tongwinjamb was followed a short way only into kunai as was the track from Komanjui to Yelaku.
- 4) The whole distance was largely in water or very muddy ground. From the end of the surveyed section at the re-settlement area, to the Yimi River, the track led through very heavily timbered bush with little undergrowth. Being the middle of the wet season the track was extremely damp, with water knee deep in many sections. The ground was interlaced with tree roots, and the soil was generally soft, with little base to it i.e. a stick could be pushed into the ground quite freely for 18" or so. There is a sago swamp between Gulaka and Ambuken but this could be circumvented by following a ridge line that joins the two places. From Ambuken for about two to three miles, the terrain is the same. It then becomes considerably drier and is fairly firm as far as Akamau hamlet.
- 5) Despite these difficulties, a road between the Gawanga and Komanjui would be feasible. There is sufficient timber available for cordroying the worst sections, the longest of which would be perhaps 1/2 mile. If the road was opened and drains dug, up to about 4' deep, the drainage problem would be relieved. There is little material available for surfacing however. The Yimi River presents the greatest problem. It was flooded when the writer saw it and apparently is crossable by canoe only for two months or so, or perhaps by swimming. It would be extremely difficult to put a suitable ford over this river, which is as wide as the Amuk River on the Dreikikir Road and flows faster (to about 18 knots). No attempt was made to estimate grader hours needed to make a crossing. However, the banks would have to be widened and levelled for quite a distance (perhaps 1/2 - 2/3 mile to spread the rivers' flow and to incline the banks sufficiently for a crossing. There is little gravel available there.
- 6) The S.S.E. Missionary at Nungwaia has walked from Gulaka to Tongwinjamb both via Abletak and Komanjui. He has also walked to Yelaku. The writer intended to walk to Yelaku but was advised that the walk would probably take up to 10 hours and might not even be possible because at least 1/3 of the route was complete swamp. The S.S.E. man, Mr. F. Urschitz completed that walk in dry weather and claimed that a road over that route would not be possible. From Gulaka to Amaki is mostly kunai and (again according to Mr. Urschitz) quite suitable for road work. However, between Amaki and Tongwinjamb, there are apparently swamp areas that are unsuitable for road work.

(6)

7) From Komanjui to Tongwinjamb was said to be the most feasible route. People from both Tongwinjamb and Komanjui advised that the section of swamp just north of Tongwinjamb was narrowest at that point and Mr. Urschitz claimed that this would be the most suitable point to cross the swampy area that surrounds Ambunti (see map.) The first section of that route is through kunai and light bush, which is suitable for road building. There are no people living there and the difficulty would be in maintenance, as enthusiasm for the initial construction would probably be quite high. However, as the present road being constructed goes to Tongwinjamb, this would no doubt be the best route.

8) From Komanjui to Akamau would be suitable for road building. Perhaps Akamau would be a suitable place to land produce, for transport from there by road, if the road is ever built. The Assistant District Commissioner at Ambunti should be approached on this as the writer has little knowledge of the amount of produce coming from the area and of the relative costs of road and river transport (i.e. would it be cheaper to transport produce from Ambunti to Pagwi by river thence by road to Bainyik/Wewak or the shorter distance to Akamau (by river) thence by road to Bainyik/Wewak, via the Wosera.

9) To conclude, the writer considers a road from the Gawanga to Akamau feasible (considering of course the Yimi River as a major obstacle) and on reports received believes that Komanjui/Tongwinjamb would be the most suitable route to link up with the road presently under construction.

(15)

APPENDIX 'C'

GAWANGA RESETTLEMENT SCHEME.

I have not had a great deal to do with the re-settlement area to date - I have only been to the area once, three years ago from DREIKIKIR. The area, known as the GAWANGA, is a total of 4552 acres, known by names HAMAMAKU, MINJANGBI and YUWOROKO. With an average size family of five, worked out at 3.5 acres per person, there are 136 families registered on the land. The limits to the number of settlers was determined by the number of families (@ 3.5 acres per individual or 17.5 acres per family of 5) that would be divisible into the total acreage land holdings of any one group. Of those settlers registered, the indications of interest at the last check (by Mr. S. SMITH P.O. see MAPRIK Patrol Report of patrol 7/68-69.) were as follows:-

1. No house or garden and not interested in permanent residence	- 45.8%
2. Has house, no garden and " " " " " "	- 22.9%
3. Has house, garden, visits periodically but N I P R.	- 21.1%
4. Has garden, no house and apparently N I P R.	- 5.1%
5. Has settled more or less permanently with house and garden*	- 5.1%
*(this figure would now be slightly less because of those who have come back to the old village for the "wet")	
	100.0%

Since I've been here, the main complaints in regard to the GAWANGA have been the distance from any centre and the lack of medical facilities. On the latter, a letter was written to the AMBUNTI Council asking if they would consider sharing the responsibility of an Aid Post either in the re-settlement area or in one of the nearby AMBUNTI villages which would be served by the A.P. and which are also extremely isolated. At the moment, because of the shortage of A.P.O.s in the area, the Medical Officer in MAPRIK has taken on some ex-Hospital Orderlies (provided they had no blots on their previous record) and giving them a certain amount of training before they again return to their posts. No reply has yet been received from the AMBUNTI Council. In regard to the isolation, the D.D.C. Mr. LEEN suggested on a recent visit that the ear road be up-graded as far as NUNGWALA and that money may possibly be made available to build a road into the re-settlement area. While at DREIKIKIR, I looked into the possibilities of a road going from MASALAGA Village to the re-settlement area. There is a good site but through an isolated unpopulated area; if this road were built, it could very easily link up with the road almost completed through the GAWANGA census division of DREIKIKIR and thence to the WEMAK-LUMI road, somewhere west of DREIKIKIR. This would reduce the isolation to a degree. I am presently preparing submissions to the view of obtaining rural development funds for WOSERA roads.

At this stage, nearly six years after the introduction of the re-settlement scheme, there has obviously been a deficiency somewhere in the supervision or enforcement of the plan or a failure on the settler's part to comprehend the purpose of the scheme, which is, as I understand it to provide alternative land for a given number of people from the WOSERA area and thus allow those left to have more ground on which they could work. This should mean that the settlers waive all rights to the land they are leaving behind and establish villages on the GAWANGA land. This is not being done, partly for the two reasons given above but also because the people have such deeply-rooted traditional ties to their land that they will not give it up. They fear that if they leave their old haunts they will forego all claim to their old land; this is exactly (to my mind) what was intended but this idea has not communicated itself to the people. Possibly if the GAWANGA was made more attractive to them (by relieving the above two complaints and other methods) the purpose of the land would be achieved, land pressure being reduced. The posting of a second

APPENDIX 'C' (continued)

(4)

officer to the WOSERA, to spend a couple of weeks at a time in the GAWANGA, turn and turn about with myself, and show the re-settlers that the Administration is interested in the place. The staff shortage has precluded the permanent posting of an officer even to the WOSERA, to date. However, I feel it is up to the Admin. to enforce the observation of relinquished land for those who take up permanent residence in the area and this cannot be fairly done until the re-settlement area is made more attractive to prospective settlers.

The second parcel of 417 acres of land, on the eastern side of NUNGWAIA is now available for re-settlement purposes. On the couple of occasions that I have discussed this, the owners have been obdurate in their demands that the land be utilised as a Patrol Post site or an Agricultural station, in any event to be occupied by a European. They will have nothing to do with any suggestions of further re-settlement.

This brings up another aspect of the land distribution in the area - the NUNGWAIA people who owned the resettlement land have more than ample for their needs, taken mainly by conquest. The BEPANDU/GWAIWARU people have lost just about all their land by conquest and the land which they now occupy is barely sufficient for their needs, even without the consideration of cash cropping and it is hardly secured to them, as a good portion of it was given to them on a permissive occupancy basis by KUMUNUGUM people. Distribution of land throughout follows this uneven pattern, and now, many of the people who have allowed (or whose ancestors allowed) permissive occupancy of any land or rights to cut sago, now wish to revoke these grants. There appears to be very little sago that is used by any person or family that is actually on land owned by that person or family.

Most of these things have been said before by preceding officers and it seems a pity that the people can see little change to their old pattern of squabbles over land and sago, albeit they no longer squabble so violently. The opinion has been expressed that as the government has not taken any positive steps towards finishing land disputes, it would be better if they resumed fighting - at least that way they will reach a certain status quo. re land ownership. The fallaciousness of this argument was explained but there is still a feeling of a breakdown somewhere in the processes of development. I myself cannot see any easy solution to a problem that has been studied by experts without sound result. Perhaps a complete survey of the area and a distribution of land on an economic basis with complete disregard for traditional distribution may not be such a far-fetched idea. Regardless of my opinion here I realise that this is not the only area with land problems and perhaps I am tending to exaggerate its importance, however I think that as long as there is no final adjudication on ownership and the disparity in distribution of land remains, it will be difficult to induce economic expansion, except in those areas blessed with a surfeit of arable land and there will be an increase in the jealousies between the have and have-nots land-wise.

APPENDIX 'D'

3

WORK OF EXPLORATION AUTHORITIES.

For about three months, the United Geophysical Corporation, for AQUITANE Petroleum Pty. Ltd. has been conducting a seismic survey from the SEPIK River, through to HAYFIELD. This survey has meant employing a bulldozer to cut a straight line from PAGWI to HAYFIELD, following approximately the route of the MAPRIK-PAGWI road. The line cut was approximately half a chain wide and pushed over everything in its path. Apparently the most damage was done in the GAUJI Council area, in the way of sago destruction etc. I have just completed the claims for the Wosera area and they total only twenty five dollars, two of which are for a 'stolen' bush knife. There were no complaints during the team's work here (they have completed operations for the present) about property damage. There were several complaints that the company was employing only BURUI people (GAUJI Council area) and I was asked to request that the company employ at least part of its labour line from the owners of land upon which they were working. This was done and the co-operation between representatives of U.G.C. and Admin. personnel was excellent throughout. On the couple of occasions where the people made complaints to any members of the team, work was immediately stopped and the A.D.C. at MAPRIK was advised. He then went to the area or asked me to go, with the company representative (usually Mr. S. GEDDES) to discuss the problem. On no occasion was there any trouble or 'confrontation' of workers, despite certain news items in the paper to the contrary. All complaints arose from this desire of land owners to be employed on their own land and their objection to traditional antagonists being employed. It was probably the efforts made by Mr. GEDDES to please everybody that people were so agreeable to the exploration activities - he ensured that he had as many people from each land-owning group working with the teams as was possible.

The only incident arose after a group of PUKAGO men, who had been taken on after they complained that other people were working for the company on their land, failed to do their job properly and were sacked. There were fifteen of them, detailed under an overseer (a YULE Islander) who has been with the company for three years and their job was to carry a small generator and the pipes to bore the holes for placing explosive. It was late in the afternoon and they thought that it was time for them to go and wash as they had become very dirty while working. The overseer had apparently kept them to finish boring a last hole and in their haste to pack up, they withdrew the drills from the ground without disjuncting the individual lengths (at five or six foot intervals). When they had pulled about thirty feet of pipe from the ground, the whole lot bent. Apparently the overseer swore at them and the leader, the ex-luluai, threatened to punch the overseer in the nose if he swore at any of his men again. A later report had it that the men having been paid and told that their services were no longer required, said to each other in their own language that they were going to come back and kill the overseer, who was subsequently rather perturbed. I could find no grounds for this allegation after investigation and nothing more was said or done. The same group of men had refused to work earlier in the week and had been warned. Thus it was not as if they had been given no chance.

The company was placing explosive every few chains as part of the survey - this aroused no comment nor were there any claims that there was any shock or damage caused by the explosives. Overall, people were quite agreeable to the presence of the company and seemed to understand the objectives and possible results if any finds are made.

APPENDIX 'E'

(2)

PRODUCTION OF
COFFEE AND RICE.

Working on the ideal basis of five hundred trees to the acre, on a ten foot triangle system of planting, with trees coming into production at about three and a half years old, gaining maximum productivity at about four and a half years and producing about two pounds per annum, the figures for coffee in the Wosera are as follows, per North and South census divisions.

<u>TREES NOT BEARING:</u>	<u>BEARING AGE:</u>	<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>PRODUCTION:</u>	<u>EST. No. GROWERS:</u>	
45,725	159,814	205,539	70 tons	2,546	NTH.
21,964	52,287	74,251	34 "	752	STH.

From the above, it can be seen that the coffee production amounted to about half the potential yield for the bearing trees, giving a little over \$30,000 for the area for the year 1968/69.

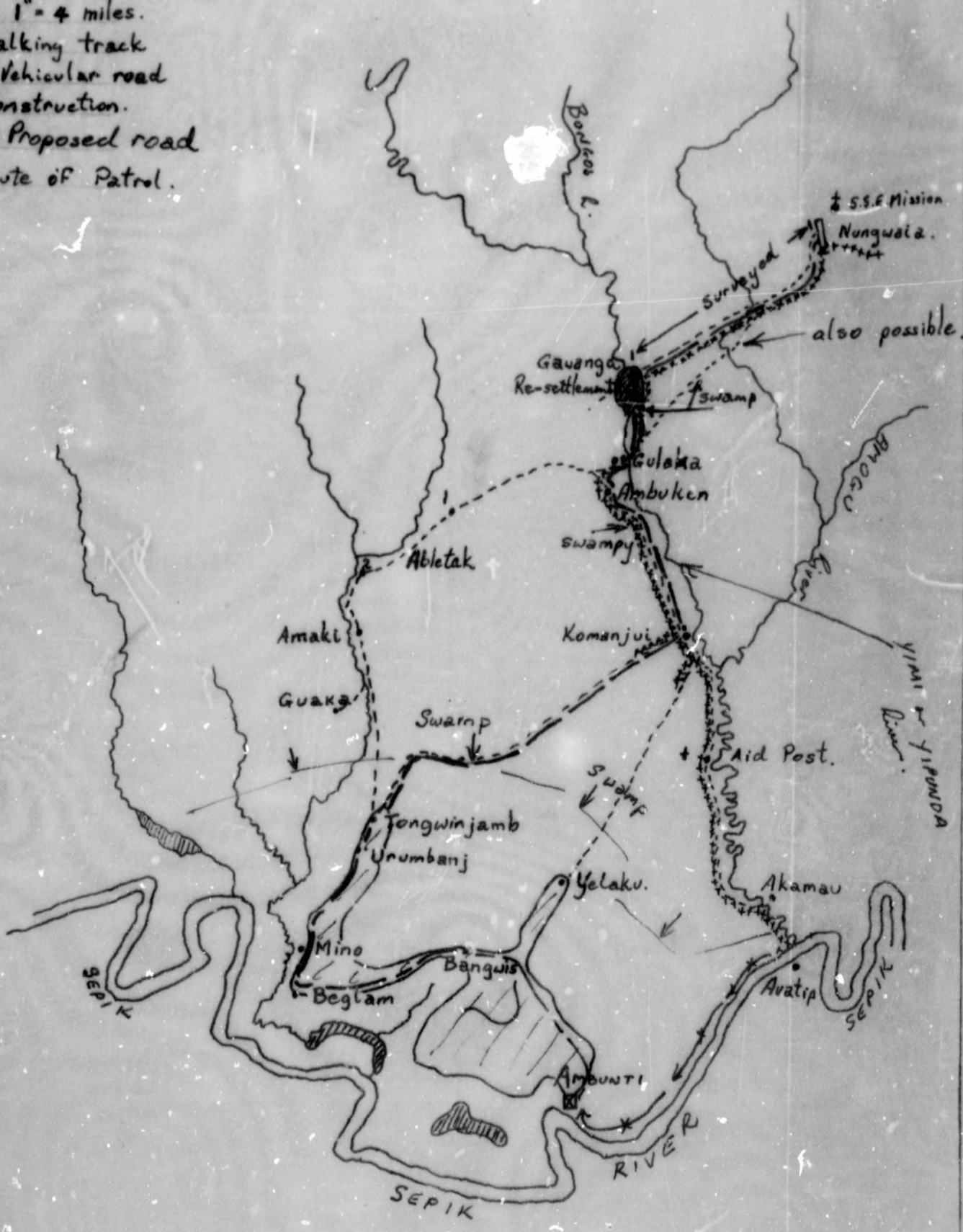
Rice production figures are as follows, for both census divisions, for the year ending December 1968.

86,400 pounds of rice was grown, selling at .03¢ per lb. gave a return of \$2,592 out of a total of \$81,000 for the whole sub-district. This is a little over 3% of the subdistrict's total rice production, being produced by 20% of the subdistrict's population. The South Wosera has the potential to produce a lot more coffee and rice, as they have a lot more land. Although the rainfall annually is a little high for dry rice (D.A.S.F. advise that 50-55 inches is ample) the Wosera area could produce a lot more rice, especially as it is a crop that does not tie up large areas of land for a long time, as does coffee.

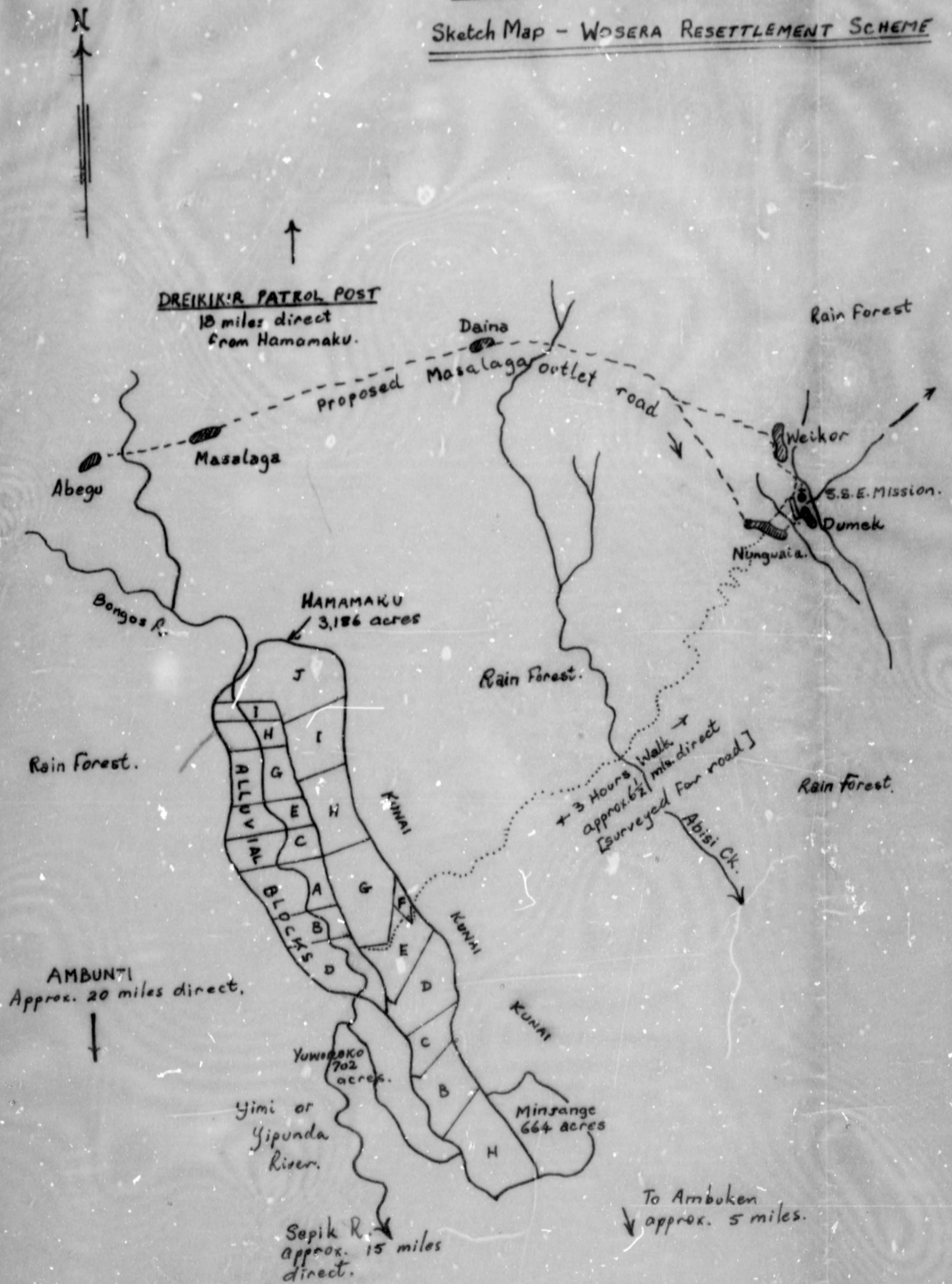
Appendix "C" Patrol Report No. 10. 6/9/70.

Scale: 1" = 4 miles.

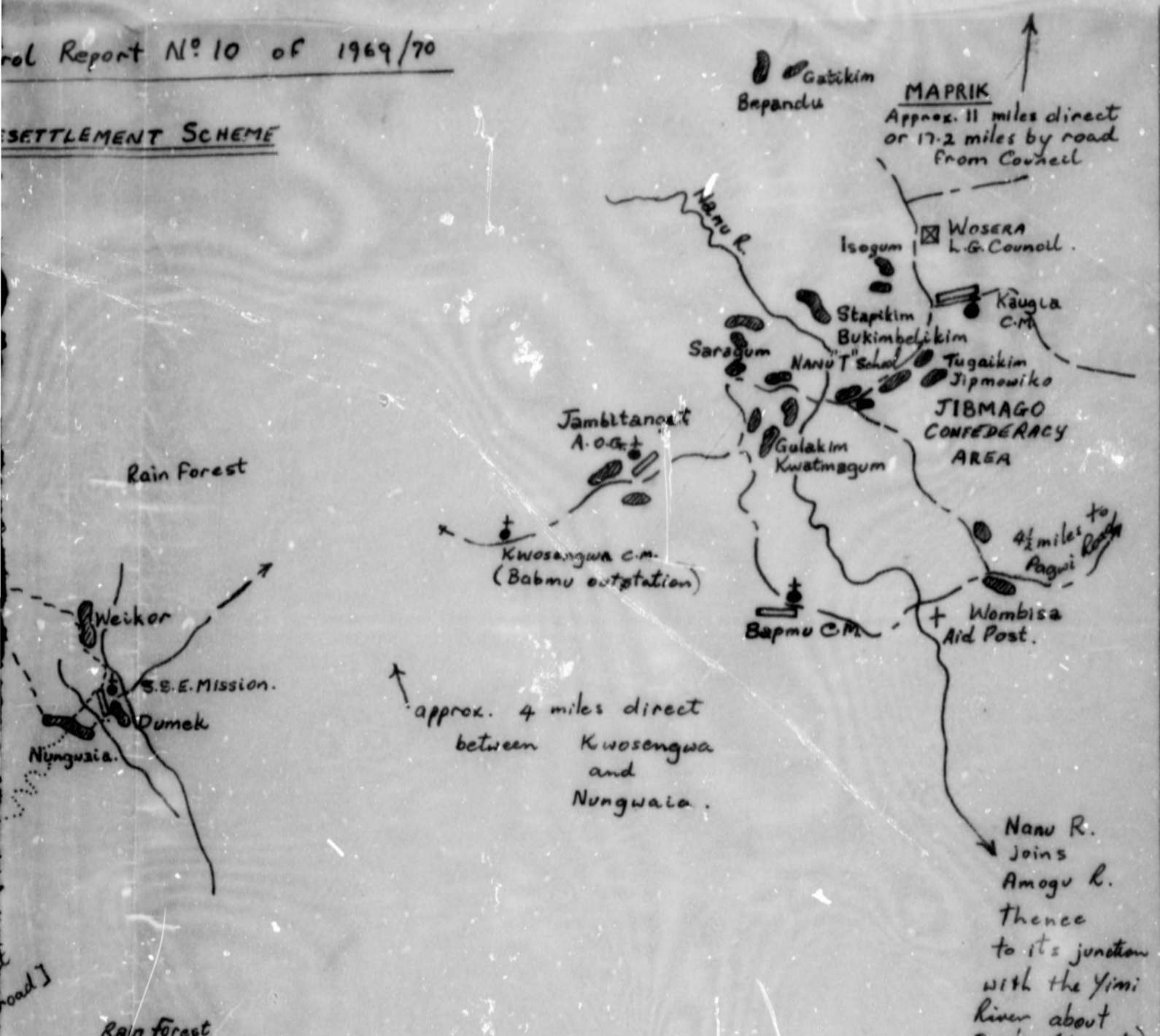
- walking track
- vehicular road under construction.
- Proposed road
- xxxxxxx Route of Patrol.



Appendix "F" - Patrol Report No. 10 of
Sketch Map - WOSERA RESETTLEMENT SCHEME



SETTLEMENT SCHEME



Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile
 † Mission Stations.
 ▭ Mission Airstrips
 ● Village sites (approx.)
 ~~~~~ Rivers  
 - - - - - Roads

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| KWATMAGUM     | A  |
| GULAKIM       | B  |
| JIPMOWIKO     | C  |
| TUGAIKIM      | D  |
| SARAGUM       | E  |
| ADMIN. W/LAT. | F  |
| STAPIKIM      | G  |
| BUKIMBELIKIM  | H  |
| GATIKIM       | I  |
| BEPANDU       | J. |

ken 5 miles.

PATROL REPORT

Patrol Number: 4 07 1969/70

Sub-District: WEWAK

District: EAST SEPIK

Type of Patrol: ANNUAL CENSUS

Patrol Conducted by: D. P. MARONEY  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Area Patrolled: WESTERN ISLANDS  
WUVULU & AUA ISLANDS

Personnel Accompanying: MR. JOHN PARKOI,  
BROADCAST OFFICER (Radio Wewak)

Duration of Patrol: 5TH OCTOBER, 1969 to 12TH OCTOBER,  
1969.

Number of Days: SEVEN (7) DAYS

Objects of Patrol: 1. REVISION OF CENSUS  
2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Total Population of Area Patrolled: 783 (1969)

Map Reference: NINIGO ISLANDS - FOURTH SERIES.

Village Population Register: ATTACHED

*Pres. Shing & Lee*

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Reference: 67-1-5

Division of District Administration,  
District Office,  
WEWAK,  
East Sepik District.

23rd January, 1970.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONFODOBU, PAPUA.

WEWAK PATROL NO. 4 OF 1969/70 -  
WESTERN ISLANDS - AUA AND WUVULU  
MR. D. P. MARONEY, ASSISTANT  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Attached please find :-

- (a) Original and copy of report.
- (b) Copy of memorandum 67-2/481 dated 9th January, 1970.
- (c) Maps of area visited.

2. I have the following comments to add to the report.

POLITICAL:

The position of these two islands in relation to asorption into the framework of the Local Government Councils will be looked into this weekend as the Senior Local Government Officer, Wewak, will be visiting them by trawler. I am hoping that that Officer will be able to suggest a solution to the problem.

Also visiting the islands on this trip will be the Regional member for the East Sepik District in the House of Assembly, Mr. Michael Somare, M.H.A. He will be able to bring the people up-to-date with the functions and activities of the House and I am certain his visit will be of value to the people. He has been requested not to raise the question of the merit or otherwise of the islands being in the Manus and not the East Sepik electorate as this is an administrative matter.

I do, however, consider that the electoral boundaries for the Manus and East Sepik District should be re-examined with a view to including Aua and Wuvulu in the East Sepik District Electorate. This report indicates that administrative services have improved since the islands were transferred to the East Sepik District in 1964 and also stresses that the people have not had the opportunity to be brought up-to date on a personal basis with House of Assembly activities because Mr. Paliau Maloat, M.H.A. has not visited these islands which are in his electorate. This is no reflection on Mr. Maloat, M.H.A. as a member of the House, it is a reflection on the Administration for creating a situation whereby it is virtually impossible for him to visit Aua and Wuvulu Islands on a regular basis as Manus vessels do not visit these islands on administrative business.

13  
S.H.

If you consider that there is a justification for the transfer of the islands to the East Sepik District Electorate, I will submit proposals for the transfer to you under separate memorandum.

AREA STUDY - POSSIBILITIES OF EXPANDING  
THE ECONOMY

As the Assistant District Commissioner, Wewak, departs for Aua and Wuvulu Islands on the 25th January, 1970, I have asked him to enquire from the people whether they would be interested in starting a smoked fish industry in the islands. If they are, the Fisheries Officer, Wewak, will be only too pleased to assist in establishing the industry. With an abundance of fish it is possible they will be interested and it would give them an alternative economy to that of copra if copra prices should become depressed.

The remarks regarding Mr. F. Archer are to the point and are quite realistic. The Aua and Wuvulu people, as far as administrative services are concerned, are better off than a lot of other people in the Territory and I consider that Mr. Archer is somewhat unrealistic in pressing for additional benefits for the people.

This is an excellent report submitted by Mr. Maroney and is a credit to him. The advantages and disadvantages of being a member of Aua and Wuvulu Societies are very clearly put.

*E. G. Hicks*

(E. G. HICKS) 5  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-district Office,  
WEWAK.

Mr. D.P. Maroney,  
Sub-district Office,  
WEWAK.

Poor Copy of  
the Original

Division of District Administration,  
Sub-District Office,  
M A P R I K  
29th September, 1970

Commissioner,  
District,

SOSEBA RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

References to the latest information available on this  
at area:

- 1) Soesra Base Camp Annual Report 1969/70
- 2) Maprik Patrol Report 10-69/70 and 1-69/70
- 3) Maprik Patrol Report

2. Two weeks ago Mr. F. Kichell, Rural Development Officer, walked through the resettlement area and estimated that there were about 120 persons settled in the land there. It has since been confirmed from enquiries made in the Soesra that there are about 40 families permanently residing there. These would occupy 22% of the land available for resettlement. I have no figures for the number of itinerant settlers (i.e. those who commute between the resettlement areas and their traditional Soesra village lands) as it is well nigh impossible to calculate these with any real accuracy. It is noted that in 1966 there were 137 registered families for the "HAMAMAKU" land (the original purchase area).
3. The problem of access to the whole resettlement area has not changed since 1964 when the project was first considered in depth. In the initial planning stage it was emphasized that the project, to have any chance of success, largely depended on good communications between the Soesra and Maprik and between these centres and the actual resettlement sites. In the intervening 6 years an unsurfaced road has been constructed between NUNGALLA and JAMBITAKKAT which can only be used in "dry" periods. The construction of bridges over the two large rivers (ANAGH and NAWU) has not taken place, although they now appear as "low cost-high risk" bridges on the 1970/71 Works Programme. But there still remains the fact that there is still no road access to the resettlement blocks.
4. Much has been written on this subject but very little has been achieved. The scheme is not a failure yet and people could still be successfully encouraged to migrate from their Soesra Villages if there was Administration interest and activity to this end.

J. A. Wiltshire  
Assistant District Comm

Action taken on 1/10/70

B  
5/11.



PATROL REPORT

PATROL NUMBER: 4 of 1969/70  
SUB-DISTRICT: WEWAK  
DISTRICT: EAST SEPIK  
TYPE OF PATROL: Annual Census  
PATROL CONDUCTED BY: D. Paul Maroney,  
Assistant District Commissioner.  
AREA PATROLLED: Western Islands  
WUVULO and AUA Islands  
PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING: Mr. John Parkoi,  
Broadcast Officer (Radio Wewak)  
DURATION OF PATROL: 5th October, 1969 to 12th October,  
1969.  
NUMBER OF DAYS: Seven (7) days  
OBJECTS OF PATROL: 1. Revision of Census.  
2. General Administration  
TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED: 783 (1969)  
MAP REFERENCE: NINIGO Islands - fourmil series  
VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER: Attached.

PATROL REPORT DAILY

WEWAK Patrol No. 4 of 1969/70.

OCTOBER, 1969.

- Sunday the 5th. 1600 - Left in M.V. ANDRA from BORAH. Accompanied by Mr. J. PARKOI of Radio Wewak. Seas calm and light wind. Work on correspondence till 2000.
- Monday the 6th 0630 - arrived at AGITA plantation, WUVULU Island. All patrol gear and medical supplies ashore. Arranged for gear to be taken to SUBELI Base Camp by tractor. 1000 - 1200; discussed island problems with Mr. B. Cullinan, Plantation Manager. By motorbike to SUBELI-Camp set up. M.V. ANDRA anchored off SUBELI. Visited AUNA and ONEI village and distributed \$950.00 in copra payments. Arranged for census tomorrow. Correspondence during late afternoon. E.O.N.
- Tuesday the 7th Torrential rain squalls all day. M.V. ANDRA went to AUA Island with APO Anton Taro in heavy weather. Minor complaints and enquiries all day, mainly messages to be done in WEWAK. Census impossible due weather, and postponed until tomorrow. Visited SUBELI Primary "T" School and spoke with head teacher, DAN NASALO. Guest of plantation manager for dinner. R.O.N.
- Wednesday the 8th Heavy to medium rain fell all day but no squalls. 0900 - to AUNA village where census conducted and completed by midday. 1500 - to ONEI village, census conducted and completed by 1600. Villages neat and housing excellent. Work on census figures till 2100. R.O.N.
- Thursday the 9th Census statistics and village books during morning. Inspected SUBELI Primary "T" School. Land document in afternoon and evening. 1600 - 1800; talk on political education given to people of both villages who had gathered at SUBELI. Patrol gear to M.V. ANDRA 2200.
- Friday the 10th M.V. ANDRA left SUBELI in early hours of the morning arriving AUA Island at 0700 - anchored. Ashore by 0800 and undertook land survey of AUA Primary "T" School whilst people loaded 63 bags of copra on to the trawler. Inspected the Administration school. \$450.00 copra payments made. Census conducted and statistics compiled and completed by 1800. M.V. ANDRA.
- Saturday the 11th Trawler left at 0500. Arrived at WUVULU at 0800. AUA village copra unloaded - some difficult in obtaining labour due to S.D.A. sabbath. Completed by 1100. Left for WEWAK. Fine day with smooth seas. Work on patrol correspondence during day.
- Sunday the 12th Arrived at WEWAK at 0300. Gear and personnel ashore by mid-morning. Patrol completed.

SITUATION REPORT

NEWAK PATROL NO. 4, 1969-70

WESTERN ISLANDS CENSUS DIVISION.

## SITUATION REPORT

WEWAK Patrol No. 4 of 1969/70.

### INTRODUCTION.

(a) The Western Islands are comprised of the two islands of WUVULU and AUA distant about 120 miles from WEWAK, and separated from each other by 20 miles of sea. The largest island, WUVULU, has 2 villages and a large plantation; AUA only has the one village. Both islands are surrounded by reef with very deep water straight off the edge: there are consequently no anchorages as such, although in the fine weather a precarious anchor hold can be found on some of the small reef shelves.

The islands are uniformly flat originally covered by tropical rainforest, but now largely coconut plantation, gardens and secondary growth. The islands are within 2 degrees of the equator and consequently the climate is typical tropical with little annual temperature variation, some diurnal change and high humidity. Rainfall is unknown but thought to be around 70" - 90" per annum. Soil is generally sandy and on top of coral.

(b) The only way to get to the islands is by ship - they are about 120 miles from WEWAK (the sub-district and district headquarters) which is about 16 hours sailing in a trawler. As already mentioned there are no anchorages and, of course, no wharves. Commercial shipping visits AGITA plantation about every 6 weeks and Mission vessels (S.D.A. M.V. LELAMAN and Catholic M.V. MARGARET) visit the islands a couple of times a year. The Administration vessels visit these islands about 8 times a year. There is a vehicular road around the plantation and to the villages at WUVULU.

There is no airstrip on either island. The proposed site on AGITA plantation on WUVULU is completely overgrown, and it is most unlikely that an airstrip will ever eventuate (refer the Directors 4 - 9 - 1 of the 9th February, 1967 and District Office E1 - 1 - 40 of the 25th January, 1967).

(c) The first contact of the people with Europeans would have been at the end of the last century when the German firm Bernsheims set up a trading post on WUVULU then known as MATHY (Matty) Island. It is reported that in 1896 the Bernsheims station was destroyed and a white man killed.\* Some time after this a former company employee, Rudolf Wahlen acquired these islands as part of his plantation empire, which included the NINIGO, HERMITTS and ANCHORITE groups. A plantation was also established at AUA sometime after WUVULU, but it was not as large and the area was never fully planted up.

Originally the native people lived in scattered hamlets and seemed to have had a matrilineal and matrilineal society. The alienation of such a large part of the island (in the case of WUVULU) changed these patterns to communal land ownership and patrilineal residence in the amalgams of the two villages. It is also claimed that WUVULU and AUA supported large populations before contact with Europeans, but that a virulent sickness drastically reduced the population at the turn of the century.

The people are Micronesian. Their language is confined to these two islands: they claim that they hear Pacific songs on their radios that appear to have many similar words to their own language. Mr. R. Kopi, Patrol Officer, has already commented about the similarity of their language to MOTU and HULA (Sewak Patrol No. 12 of 65/66) and it is likely that a group in TALASEA has also a related language. This all points towards a common origin and a sea migration which has scattered related people over tens of thousands of square miles.

\* Queen Emma by R. W. Robson, Pacific Publications, Sydney 1965. p. 233.

The people are island people, but not seafarers as such. Their canoes originally were large with sharp pointed prow and stern, beautiful kirk-like ceremonial pillars on both ends and a single outrigger. The people now only use dumpy one-man fishing canoes - a far cry from their ceremonial canoes. Despite the indications that these people were part of a seaward migration in the past, they claim they have never been able to sail and they have only paddle canoes, unlike their sailing neighbours of the NINIGO islands to the east.

The people have a gentle friendly temperament, but they lack the dynamism of some of the groups on the mainland. They have evolved a suitable way of life for their island with its bounteous fish supply, and abundant coconut stands. Their ancestors discovered the water "lens" and dug huge pits in which to grow their swamp taro. They have blended into their environment, but depopulation was a spectre until the last decade when health measures drastically reduced the death rate and gave the islands one of the highest natural increases in the Territory (5.8%).

(A) POLITICAL.

Local Government has not been extended to the Western Islands: not because the people reject it, but because the area does not conform to the usual pattern of Local Government Council extension. Not only is the area isolated from WEWAK, but also the two islands are sufficiently far apart to make a trip by paddle canoe hazardous; hence the people of the two islands are effectively isolated from each other as well as the outside world. The effect of this is to prevent them becoming part of another Council such as the Wewak-But Council: island representatives could not attend meetings regularly and during the North-West season most probably could not attend at all. Shipping is not reliable and it is usually a month between ships, which would make such an arrangement tiresome and expensive for the island people, and fairly unworkable all round. Likewise communications would make it most difficult for an Adviser or Council clerk to supervise meetings and arrange financial matters and correspondence if the Western Islands eventually had their own Council.

The population of the islands would not appear to be enough to sustain a local Council. Of the total population of 783 there are only 136 adult males (16+) in residence and probably something less than 100 as potential male tax payers. Hence the total revenue from taxation would not be likely to be more than \$800.00 per annum: hardly enough for a viable organisation.

Another problem is that a Local Government Council would not seem to have much to offer the people. The people have schools, water supply (tanks and wells), and aid post orderlies provided by the Administration. The roads on WUVULU are adequate and AGITA plantation assists the people with movement of their copra. On AUA there are no vehicular roads as such, but nor are there vehicles or the likelihood of vehicles in the near future. Hence there is little that the Council could contribute in the way of projects. In effect, the essential paternalism of the Administration, plantation, and to a lesser extent, Mission where most of the people's needs are already ministered to, has left little real incentive to join in Local Government. The community spirit is quite strong and they undertake community projects, albeit slowly, without the need for a formalised organisation.

Although they are fairly satisfied with their lot, their knowledge of political events in the rest of the Territory, acquired from Radio Wewak and returning villagers has given them an inquisitive attitude to the House of Assembly and Councils: but their enquiries are reticent. Aside from the introduction of Councils there is little political activity on the mainland that would affect the people's day to day life. Indeed economic consideration would appear to be the main ones: whilst AGITA plantation is in operation the people have an opportunity to obtain local work and an outlet for their own copra on the commercial shipping. The closing down of the plantation would see the end of commercial shipping as it would be most unlikely that the local people could produce the regular, reliable output required for vessels to take a two day return trip without the security of an anchorage. Hence, because of their isolation it would be economic and not political events, that would effect the area.

Returning to Councils, there is interest in them but not enthusiasm. The people of the Western Islands are not demonstrative or extroverted, and interest is the most favourable emotion one could expect on an issue such as this. It was suggested by the people of WUVULU that two representatives from each village visit WEWAK to see the workings of Councils first hand. This would seem to be an excellent suggestion and the period between ships could be used to enable these representatives to visit the most important Councils in the East Sepik District. Such a visit could be arranged through the Senior Local Government Officer, WEWAK, and would lead to more political awareness on the part of these people.

The islands are within the MANUS Open Electorate and the Member of the House of Assembly has been known to visit these islands. However, notwithstanding their representation, the people are oriented towards the mainland in general, and WEWAK in particular with the Administration trawlers, commercial and Seven Day Adventist vessels operating from WEWAK. Only the infrequent visits of the Catholic Mission vessel from KAVIENG and the malarial control team from MANUS Island retain some ties with the "islands". The Member for the East Sepik Regional Electorate has shown interest in visiting these islands, although strictly speaking outside his area, but so far he has not done so.

Political education talks were given to the people but for the reasons already outlined proved somewhat incongruous: the people's physical and psychological isolation effectively keeps them from the mainstream of political development. Such a situation cannot continue indefinitely but the people's interest in the abstract political theories and on other aspects unlikely to have much effect on them, is naturally minimal. Polite interest is shown in matters of direct interest to them such as Councils, but even these are not "live" issues.

Naturally the Luluai and Tultul village official situation continues and by and large it works as reasonably as can be expected. The village officials at AUNA village are most impressive and stand out from the rest of the population. However the Luluai and Tultul of ONEI and the two tultuls at AUA Island have "feet of clay" and are prepared to stay in the background. In view of the possibility of eventual introduction of Local Government the vacancy caused by the death of the Luluai has not been filled, neither has there been any demand to select a replacement.

(b) ECONOMIC

The exclusive cash crop on the island is, of course, copra. The one commercial plantation AGITA predominates with the production of about 300 tons per year from its 2,740 acres, almost all of which is planted up, but the majority being original palms established during the Rudolf WARBLEN era at the turn of the century. As there has been negligible replanting except for a pocket before the Second World War, a steady decline in production can be anticipated in the next decade.

The local people produce their own copra and it is shipped to the Copra Marketing Board at MADANG along with AGITA copra, by commercial shipping. No commercial shipping visits AUA Island, but when possible Administration trawlers pick up AUA copra and deliver it to AGITA for onforwarding to MADANG (my 67 - 4/614 of 3rd April, 1969). One disadvantage of this system is that the local people's copra does not always go as AGITA has first preference on loading, and sometimes with shipping delays there are more than 900 bag the capacity of the MV SORENGANA which usually makes the trip. However, I believe no copra has been unsalable because of the delay, but bags have been underweight. We are currently making enquiries in Madang for a 12 bag capacity Lurboat which the AUA Island people wish to buy to facilitate loading of copra.

Sub-district office has been handling the banking side of the village copra accounts for some years now. The proceeds from the sale of copra are paid into the accounts by us, and expenses such as freight and copra bags, paid. Periodically cash is taken out to the islands by safe hand and a record of all transactions is kept and a copy given to the people. The system works well, but it entails not a little work and an amount of risk on the part of the officers who carry several thousand dollars, the loss of which would be catastrophic to say the least.

The following is the amounts received into the respective copra accounts:

| <u>CMB #</u> | <u>Village</u> | <u>Total \$</u> | <u>Average pa \$</u> | <u>Last 12 mths \$</u> |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| M 9          | AUNA           | 10,921.00       | 2,730.30             | 3,269.00               |
| M 7 )        | ONEI           | 9,188.00        | 2,297.00             | 3,115.00               |
| M 8 )        |                |                 |                      |                        |
| M10          | AUA            | 3,111.00        | 1,250.00             | 2,355.00               |

The average amount produced per annum per head then is as follows:

|      | <u>Population</u> | <u>Average pa.</u> | <u>Last 12 mths</u> |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| AUNA | 290               | \$ 9.40            | \$11.30             |
| ONEI | 226               | \$10.05            | \$13.70             |
| AUA  | 267               | \$ 4.65            | \$ 8.80             |
|      | 783               | \$ 8.00            | \$11.15             |

Whilst this amount at first sight appears small, when we consider that the average size of family is about 6.0 then this amounts to \$66.90 to a family, and as 40% of the adult male population is absent, the real return to these productive units is closer to \$91.00 per family.

In addition to the copra industry some of the islanders are competent wood carvers, and make ceremonial swords, model canoes and varieties of fish, mainly sharks. The market for these carvings is fairly limited but the S.D.A. Mission and Mr. Cullinan have started to send out shipments. The carvings are fragile and delicate compared to the Sepik art, and this presents special problems of packing and shipping. It is estimated that the sale of carvings would yield about \$1,000.00 per year to the people.

Most of the native land is planted with coconuts but many are planted at random and not on the triangular grid. It was noticed that a significant area of native coconut plantation was overgrown. The owners claimed that they just had not got around to cleaning it which rather belies the claim (by outsiders) that the shortage of land is effecting the standard of living of the people.

The area has not been visited by a representative of the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries for some time, presumably as the economy is narrow and is progressing well without the need for specialist guidance which in any case is provided by the Plantation manager.

#### SOCIAL.

##### (a) Education.

The islands are well served by two primary schools - the Seven Day Adventist school at SUBELI on WUVULU Island and the Administration school at AUA. The former school has classes to Standard 4 and the latter to Standard 5. Children have to go to the mainland to complete their Upper Primary education (at the S.D.A. school at NAGUN or the Administration Primary 'T' Schools at KAINDE, WEWAK and BAINYIK; in the East Sepik District) and Secondary education at BRANDI High School or the Seventh Day Adventist High School near GOROKA.

The following are the attendance figures at the schools:

| <u>SUBELI S.D.A.</u>                  |          |          |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------|
|                                       | <u>M</u> | <u>F</u> | <u>To t al</u> |
| Standard 4                            | 15       | 17       | 32             |
| " 3                                   | 7        | 12       | 19             |
| " 2                                   | 5        | 12       | 17             |
|                                       | —        | —        | —              |
|                                       | 27       | 41       | 68             |
| <u>AUA Island Primary 'T' School.</u> |          |          |                |
| Standard 5                            | 7        | 13       | 20             |
| " 3                                   | 8        | 11       | 19             |
| " 1                                   | 11       | 14       | 25             |
|                                       | —        | —        | —              |
|                                       | 26       | 38       | 64             |



A noticeable feature of the education on the islands is the number of girls attending school: they have a majority in every class and comprise 60% of the total enrolment. There are three teachers at SUBELI school - two from ONEI village, WUVULU, and the Head Teacher, DAN MASOLO from the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. There are two teachers at AUA Island, the current Head Teacher, ABOG ERUANE replaced Robert OROGOP in June, and the latter has since resigned (refer my confidential letter).

The schools were visited and inspected. The SUBELI school is crude with rough hewn desks, uneven and loose slab floors and the classrooms are not weatherproof. The sago thatch roof is infested with a larvae which is rapidly and audibly eating among the thatch. There is a dearth of teaching aids. Despite these handicaps the students appear to be doing well. The people have contributed money to the Mission towards the cost of a permanent material classroom, and I understand they have contributed about \$800.00 so far. AUA island school is well equipped and the building, although small and native-material, seem adequate. Children are keen on school and truancy is no problem on the islands.

(b) Health

The health of the people is excellent. The adequate diet, medical attention and good water supply have all combined to allow the high natural increase. Mortality has dropped sharply, births increased and longevity has increased markedly.

There are wells and tanks supplied by the Administration in every village. The two Aid Posts are kept well stocked and provide a real service to the community.

In the past two years the staff of the Department of Public Health have made 14 visits to the islands. Within the last year the islands have had:

a visit by the Dentist when school children's teeth were examined and attended to; a visit by three doctors; a series of visits by the Infant Welfare Sister giving triple antigen injections; a TB survey involving the shifting of large numbers of patients to and from Wewak; and finally a Type A2 Hong Kong influenza vaccination campaign. Hence, the people of these islands have had more than adequate, and certainly more than average, attention.

Village hygiene and sanitation is good and housing, good to excellent.

(c) Law and Order

These island people must be amongst the most law-abiding in the territory. A case which the people consider noteworthy, but would not even raise comment on the mainland, was a short fist-fight between two people in ONEI: apparently such a thing had not happened on the island for many, many years.

(d) Missions

The Seventh Day Adventist Mission predominates in these islands. They have exclusive sway at WUVULU and are the dominant religion at AUA, where there is also small Roman Catholic following.

The factionalism of the two religions at AUA has provided problems in the past but no overt hostility has been noticed recently. However, there remains an undercurrent of suspicion between the two groups encouraged by the personal ambitions of some of the leaders. Fortunately there is evidence that the groups are co-operating more.

(e) Standard of Living

I consider the standard of living on these islands as the highest in this sub-district. The good diet with abundant fish, excellent housing and good hygiene is the people's own contribution. The excellent medical service, good water supply, educational opportunities and frequency of communication is provided by the Administration (and the S.D.A. for the SUBELI school). The opportunities for forwarding copra and assistance with their copra is provided by the Plantation and Sub-District Office.

The people's temperate habits have helped not to dissipate some of their income, as has the "drinking party" aspect of the But-Boiken area of this sub-district. The people have many of the material things of life with numerous bicycles, radios (AUNA has a ratio of 1 to every 19 persons), even pick-ups (10 on WUVULU, and one man has a motorbike. In all, their way of life is a good compromise between the traditional and modern patterns, with few of the problems of either.

(f) Welfare

There are two Women's Clubs functioning at AUA and AUNA. The ONEI club is no longer meeting. Miss B. Stacey, Welfare Officer visited the islands in February, 1969.

CONCLUSION

The people have few immediate problems, but there is no doubt that there are substantial long-term ones. The price of a successful medical service is nothing short of a population explosion. Whilst the effects of this on AUA will not be felt for a generation or so, there is little doubt that pressure on the native land at AUNA and ONEI will be within the next decade or two.

The land question is not a simple one. At present the land shortage is not really pressing with some of the area overgrown, a bountiful yield of fish from the sea adjacent to their villages, and 17% of the population absent from the two villages. However, with the current natural increase a Malthusian situation will develop in the next decade unless additional land can be acquired. This land can only be obtained from AGITA plantation and it would seem just as necessary to the local people to keep AGITA operating as an economic unit, because should AGITA become no longer profitable, the local people will no doubt lose their commercial contact with the outside world. Hence it is important that the amount of land acquired from the plantation is not so large as to affect its economic viability.

The local government question is one that demands attention. The difficulty is that this area is atypical and would seem to need a more flexible approach than the present one, within the framework of the Local Government Ordinance 1964. An intermediate system between the old Village Official and the present Local Government one, with fewer meetings, simplified accounting and a less formal approach, would seem to be more appropriate.

The people on these islands are certainly given much attention, a good deal of it because of their Micronesian racial origins and their "uniqueness". It is unfortunate that their Melanesian counterparts in the outer islands of the Schouten group (BAM, BLUPBLUP, KADOUAR and WEI) are less better off and receive much less attention (refer Wewak Patrol No. 8 of 1965 - 69) notwithstanding their greater population and worse plight.

The people are likeable enough, but the present environment of their heavy reliance on the Plantation, Mission and the Administration is to the extent of hampering the development of their own responsibilities and self-reliance; however, the people do not seem to see any need to change their situation, and I am not at all sure that this would be in their short term interest. But there is no doubt that change they must, if they are not to remain anachronistic and racial oddities in the present and future territory political milieu.

(D. Paul Maroney)  
Assistant District Commissioner.

DATA STUDY

SEWAK PATROL NO. 4, 1969-70

SEVEN ISLANDS CENSUS DIVISION.