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OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: CENTRAL

STATION: Bereina

VOLUME No: 11

ACCESSION No: 496.

1969 - 1970

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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[illegible]



67-1-37

PATROL REPORT NO 6-69/70

— BY —

MR. D. J. CHRISTIE.

BEREINA  
KAIRUKU.

Area Study 6/✓  
J. I. S. 11/✓

68 1/2 Broth 10/3 R. 10/3

R. 10/✓

CENTRAL DISTRICT.

BEREINA

1969/70

Report No 6





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

checked  
B  
10/4/70

Sub-District  
District of **CENTRAL**, of **KAIRUKU** Report No. **6 of 1969/70**  
Patrol Conducted by **Mr. D. J. CHRISTIE, Assistant Patrol Officer.**  
Area Patrolled **MEKEO Census Division (Part L.G. Council Area).**  
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans **None**  
Natives **2 (sometimes 3) members RPNGC, Mr. ANAIA OA, T.P.O. (8/12 to 20/12). Tax Review Committee, MEKEO LGC.**  
Duration—From **10/11/1969 to 22/12/1969.**  
Number of Days **32 Patrol Days.**  
Did Medical Assistant Accompany? **No**  
Last Patrol to Area by—District Services **8/7/1969.**  
Medical ...../...../19.....  
Map Reference **Milnech of KAIRUKU, Fournil of YULE.**  
Objects of Patrol **Census and Area Study.**

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation .... \$.....  
Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund .... \$.....  
Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund ....  
.....  
.....  
.....

*Mr. May D...*  
no

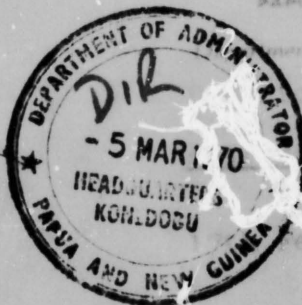
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MIGRAT

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M F

## TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, STOCK AND FISHERIES  
Agricultural Office,

67-1-57

68

~~The District Commissioner,  
Department of the Administrator,  
PORT MORESBY.~~

KATRU KU

PATROL REPORT NO. 6 OF 1969/70.

It is pleasing to see the interest that has been aroused in agricultural development since the formation of an Local Government Council Agricultural Committee. However the surge of interest in training is rather suspect as training also involves travel.

We are finding it very hard to meet the demand for training Papuan farmers in livestock work. The main reason for this is that we have no such training facilities in the Papuan region and are forced to depend on Baiyer River and Erap.

The completion of the road to Moresby could lead to a dramatic change in the economy of the Mekeo and an increase in the degree of sophistication of agricultural ventures. We should be prepared for this by having a few projects of as high a standard as possible rather than many poor ones. People learn best by example and mainly for this reason our selection of farmers for training should be done very carefully.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONEDOBUE.

(M.H. BELFIELD),

For your information please.

DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

c.c. Rural Development Officer,  
Boronia.

(R. T. GALLOWAY)

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, C.D.

26.2.70



(6)

67-1-37  
Division of District Administration,

Konedobu.

10th February, 1970.

District Commissioner,  
Central District,  
PORT MORESBY.

PATROL NO. BEREINA 6-69/70:

Your unreferenced memorandum of 20th January, 1970,  
refers.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual Census and  
Area Study by Mr. D.J. Christie, Assistant Patrol Officer,  
to MEKEO Census Division.

This is a refreshing report of undoubted value. It was  
a pleasure to read Mr. Christie's clearly expressed assess-  
ment of the existing attitudes, actions and reactions of the  
Mekeo people; and to note his comments and views on the cir-  
cumstances that caused them. This is good material; well  
considered, well presented and the entire report is an excel-  
lent effort.

Mr. Christie displays a keen, thoughtful approach to the  
problems of the area. It is obvious that he made very good  
contact with the people. As Administrative Adviser to the  
Mekeo Council he will have adequate opportunity to test his  
theories. As long as he is prepared to modify and vary his  
ideas to meet changing conditions, and as long as he can  
accept setbacks as they occur, he could have the right approach  
for this area.

The covering comments complement the report and add to its  
value. I note that follow-up action is in hand on matters aris-  
ing from the patrol.

Mr. Christie is commended for a fine piece of work.

c.c. Mr. D. J. Christie,  
Sub-District Office,  
BEREINA.  
Central District.

(S.J. Pearsall)  
a/Secretary  
Department of the Administrator.

Whilst political education is a continuing process, it  
is becoming a more specialised task, and you are still expected  
to participate fully in its extension at every opportunity.



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12. If Mr. Christie in his vital role as Council Adviser can inculcate a sense of obligation in the payment of Council Tax he has won a good proportion of the essential self-help component.

13. A vital factor inhibiting the development of the Mekeo people is the extreme reluctance to sell land or enter discussions and co-operate with the Administration in settling land disputes.

14. The attitude stems from a parochial and subsistence mentality, which naturally enough, the majority of the community subscribes. It is virtually impossible for an enterprising man to get title to an area he wishes to develop as an individual project.

15. Land is a timeless, permanent asset about which the whole fabric of society and culture is woven. It has a significance which is difficult for the Western mind, with its insistence that a money value can be placed on anything to capture.

16. Loss or possible loss of an area of land may cause emotional and spiritual injury.

17. The whole question of land in the Mekeo is a particularly difficult one to solve and needs expert and sympathetic approach.

18. The following recommendations will be made by separate memorandum.

- a) It will be recommended to Place Names Committee to change Bush Mekeo to North Mekeo or other name recommended by Council after consultation with people.
- b) The inclusion of Imounga in present Bush Mekeo Census Division.
- c) For purpose of patrolling create three census divisions, East, West and North Mekeo. As these constitute the Mekeo Local Government Council one area study will suffice to cover the entire area.

19. The present names used in Village Directory have been recognized officially for many years. It is intended to revise the Directory for Central District as soon as possible. Assistant District Commissioners will be requested to make recommendations.

20. With regard to Missionaries. No matter the denomination. Their right to give advice to the people has never been in doubt. It is their privilege and in most cases their service is for one purpose, is unique and unselfish. The most able field officer is the best informed, and it is immaterial where he gets his information providing it is accurate and of use.

21. The Mariboi question will be dealt with by separate memorandum.

22. Mr. Christie is commended for his work in the political education sphere.

23. A very good report of a valuable patrol.

*R. T. Galloway*  
(R. T. GALLOWAY)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER C.D.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telephone-2891

Our Reference.....

67.1.37 (62)  
Department of the Administrator,  
District Office,  
P.O. Box 776,  
Port Moresby,  
Central District.

30th January, 1970

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONEDOBU

KAIRUKU PATROL NO. 6 of 1969/1970  
MEKEO CENSUS DIVISION  
MR. D. J. CHRISTIE A.P.O.

Two copies of above report are attached for your information and comment please.

2. Mr. Christie's sensible approach to the complex problems of the Mekeo people is refreshing. He is obviously studying the situation and providing himself with essential background information necessary to his duties as Council Adviser.
3. In addition to detailed comments by Assistant District Commissioner I have the following to offer.
4. If the aspiration of the Mekeo people is to develop a viable cash economy then a part of the responsibility to develop and maintain services such as roads must devolve on the local community through their Council.
5. I believe there is no inability by the Mekeo people to appreciate the vital part played by roads and other forms of communication within the total economy.
6. A country such as T.P. & N. G. which suffers from a chronic shortage of development capital cannot afford the luxury of attitudes to which the Mekeo people currently subscribe.
7. Where outside capital is not available local resources must be utilised on a voluntary self-help basis. Unless we succeed in fostering a self-help ethic and pride in local achievement there is a danger, already apparent, of antagonistic pressure groups appearing as demands are not met.
8. In many cases in the past because of our hypersensitive dislike of criticism, a disproportionate share of national resources have been allocated to projects the subject of attack.
9. This policy of expediency has the practical result of rewarding those who decline to make any concession to self-help at all.
10. In most indigenous communities an individual has only obligations to his clan kinsmen which must be performed because his whole existence depends on carrying out reciprocal obligations. These rules do not apply in dealings with outsiders.
11. Consequently individual Mekeos often do not give a very high priority to the repayment of debts or loans contracted outside the group.



67-1-3  
EWB/PC

64  
Sub-District Office,  
BEREINA,  
Central District.

16th January, 1970.

District Commissioner,  
P.O. Box 776,  
PORT MORESBY.

REPORT OF PATROL BEREINA No. 6 - 1969/70

MEKEO Census Division - Mr. CHRISTIE, APO

Attached please find 3 copies of the patrol report, patrol maps and 2 extra copies of Census Statistics.

Comments.

- (1) Mr. Christie, APO has submitted a very good report but again has been over critical. I will discuss this with Mr. Christie as I feel that he is not aware of it when writing his patrol report. Mr. Christie must report the facts, draw conclusions from the situation and in his next visit see if the situation has improved. From my own observations, Mr. Christie has been well accepted by the people and I feel that the Council will improve under Mr. Christie's guidance. In this respect he should remain as Administrative Adviser for at least two terms.

- (2) Re para 1, page 8.

The opening paragraph stating 1,015 tax defaulters presents a grim picture. However, for the Mekeo Census Division there are 1,634 listed males in the Tax Register, 673 have paid tax, 92 Exemptions and 869 defaulters. Of this 869 many are eligible for exemptions and possibly up to 30% are in continual transit between this area and Moresby. Tax prosecutions were commenced but have now stopped due to instructions.

Overall the situation has improved from last year. In 1968/69 a total of \$6,691 was collected whereas this year \$8,509 has been collected to date. It is hoped to improve on this figure before the end of the year.

- (3) Re paras 2 to 10.

Mr. Christie has summarized the general comments re the Mekeo people and the Council. At present there is a change towards the Council and the Administration, but before stating that there is a positive change for the better it will be necessary to wait for another 12 months. It is significant to say that the people have responded very favourably towards Mr. Christie.

Re para 7: Mr. Christie must learn not to make such comments. As he gains experience he will learn that the people are only too ready to place the blame on anybody but themselves.

- (4) Economic.

Would you please have a copy of this Section of the report sent to DRDC. The people are progressing very rapidly and as such have their own production and marketing arrangements. I feel that the people should be allowed to progress as they

/2 .....



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are doing. Those who want help get it.

- (5) Secial. No comment.

Comments re Area Study.

- (6) Para 44 - Population Distribution and Trends.

The figure of 14% shown as Absent Workers will fluctuate depending on time of the year. The term absent worker does not reflect the true situation, due to the fact that there is no other column, temporary absentees are included under Absent Workers. In fact there are many more people temporarily absent than actually employed absentees.

- (7) Re para 45.

There appears to be justification for the striking out the names and showing them as Migrations Out - refer page 205 Departmental Standing Instructions. However would you please confirm that a person or a family who has been absent for 5 - 10 years can be shown as a Migration Out. Mr. Christie's comment on the last 3 lines of para 45 is quite unnecessary.

- (8) Re para 47 - 48.

I have been informed that the previous residents of Mariboi were originally from the Gollala Sub-District and have now returned. Would you please request ADC Tapini to have inquiries made on the next census patrol of the adjoining area.

- (9) Re para 51 - 53.

Recommendation that Imounga be included in the Bush Mekeo is recommended.

- (10) Re para 62 - 72.

The only possibility of attempting the problem of land ownership would be a full time Deputy Commissioner and 3 Field Assistants capable of chain and compass survey.

- (11) Re para 82.

Mr. Christie's approach of 'reasoned persuasion' will be watched with interest. As Mr. Christie has been accepted by the Mekeo people this approach might work. The main aspect of dealing with the Mekeo people is the officer's personality. In this case both parties accept each other and Mr. Christie has the advantage in that as Bereina is his first posting he cannot compare them with other groups.

- (12) Re para 92 - 96.

This matter has already been passed to you and is in the hands of the CIB Police Station, Boreke. In this respect I would suggest that a Senior NCO of the CIB visit Bereina to conduct further inquiries. A fluent Motu speaker would be desirable. Due to my present patrol programme I cannot commit an experienced officer to carry out a complete investigation.

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(13) Re paras 98 - 108.

My correspondence re roads over the last 12 months refers. The situation is impossible as PWD cannot supply efficient mechanics. The Expatriate Mechanic posted to Bereina resigned and the equipment lies idle. My reports on this serious matter need no further comment.

(14) Re para 110.

I will leave comments on this to DDC Mr. Brown.

(15) Re para 113 - 116.

Admittedly the Mekeo Council has never really got off the ground and I feel that all the blame for this cannot be attributed to Administration Officers as Mr. Christie appears to indicate. The statement in para 116 needs clarifying by Mr. Christie.

(16) Re para 119.

This indeed is interesting and I suggest that a tape recorder be made available for the Mekeo Patrol commencing next month. Mr. Christie can record his impromptu talks and the questions could be of value to the Political Education Section.

(17) Re para 127.

There is always a willingness to travel at Administration expense. Would you please pass this Section to the DRDO and Appendix XIII.

(18) Re para 131. Attitudes towards Local Government.

There is an improvement as \$6,691 was collected in 1968/69 and to date \$8,509 has been collected. There is no doubt that the problems of tax collection are particularly difficult in this area. The continual movement of people between Moraby and Bereina makes the process of law virtually impossible to implement. The problem of finding the person to make demand in the first instance, then the serving of a summons makes tax evasion very easy. However, there is an improvement which we hope will continue. The Council is also at last making some effort to complete a capital works programme and obtain funds through Rural Development.

(19) Re paras 137 to 140.

67-1-2 of 16th December, 1969 from Director refers. Your minute 67-2-4 of 6th January, 1970 to Director's letter also refers. The situation previously reported by Mr. Beard (refer Patrol No. 1 - 69/70) has improved. It would appear that the previous Anti-Administration attitude was the result of few and Mr. Christie's visit has improved the situation. I will have a follow up in this area in a few months.

(20) Re paras 147 to 163. Attitudes towards Central Government.

Mr. Christie has made some interesting comments and has definitely incorporated political education in this patrol. Would you refer this section to the political education section.

/s/ .....

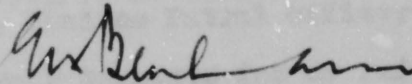


(61)

Conclusion.

Mr. Christie must learn that he is a part of the Administration and not put himself on the outside looking in. Another aspect is not to over report, e.g. para 86, "Missions" without invitation unburdened many complaints". Para 149. "The writer is a non-smoker but has made an exception to his abstinence for Patrol". Para 7 "Perhaps it was the case that the Council was thrust upon the people by a well-meaning Administration without the people having been fully convinced of its desirability."

Overall, a well presented and documented report of the area. Mr. Christie has only completed nine months service and his aptitude and application to his work is a credit to him.



(E. W. Benham),  
Assistant District Commissioner.



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FROM : Mr. D. J. CHRISTIE, Assistant Patrol Officer

DATE : 12th January, 1970

TO : Mr. E. W. BENHAM, Assistant District Commissioner

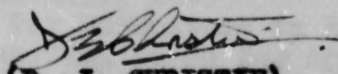
REPORT ON PATROL No. 6 of 1969/70

I refer to my memorandum 67-1-4 dated 31st December, 1969.

My Report on Patrol No. 6 of 1969/70 is submitted herewith together with that of Mr. ANAIA OA, Trainee Patrol Officer.

I would appreciate a copy of your comments for my reference and guidance on my next Patrol commencing 16th February, 1970.

Company Allowance claims for myself and Mr. OA are attached as are Forms TF.3 accounting for expenditure from the Patrol Advance.

  
(D. J. CHRISTIE),  
Assistant Patrol Officer.

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(58)

DIARY

- 10th November, 1969 Departed BEREINA at 1015 hrs after discussions with the A.D.C. Left Patrol equipment at INAWAIA and moved on to JESUBAIBUA. Commenced census at 1130 hrs and completed it at 1715 hrs. Held informal talks with JESUBAIBUA villagers. Spent night at INAWAIA.
- 11th November, 1969 Addressed villagers of JESUBAIBUA on political and agricultural matters and stressed the increasing importance of education. This latter point was made because of a high incidence of truancy at the Mission school. Inspected village, trade stores, shotguns and vehicles. Had further talks with some villagers. Mr. ROBERTS, A.D.O., visited the Patrol for 20 minutes. Spent night at INAWAIA.
- 12th November, 1969 Commenced census of INAWAIA at 0800 hrs and adjourned it at 1600 hrs. Had informal discussions with some villagers.
- 13th November, 1969 Completed census of INAWAIA. Inspected village, trade stores, vehicles, shotguns and Council water project. Motorised water pump had been unserviceable for 13 months. In the evening talked to about 150 men about the way their government is made up and how it is being handed over to them. Discussed the need for education and the need for them to support their Council. Relevant and well-ordered discussion followed and several attempts to close the meeting were met with further questions. The meeting eventually closed at 2330 hrs.
- 14th November, 1969 Addressed the children of INAWAIA R.C. Mission school on the structure of their government using building blocks. Then had discussions with Srs. MARGARET and JEANNE. Had discussions with Fr. VERGES over lunch at INAWAIA R.C. Mission. As a result of the previous night's talk on the need for them to support their Council, the men of INAWAIA at last dismantled the motorised water pump, crated it up, brought it to the village and put it on the truck with much laughing and singing. They had stubbornly refused to do so for 13 months I was told. Left INAWAIA with water pump and engine at 1600 hrs., called at MOU to serve a summons and arrived at BEREINA at 1800 hrs.
- 15th November, 1969 Carried out some Council clerical duties.
- 16th November, 1969 Investigated a disturbance at INAWI and made an arrest.



17th November, 1969

Attended to various administrative duties whilst awaiting arrival of D.I.E.S. projectionist.

Departed BEREINA with projectionist and equipment at 1130 hrs. Held up at ANGABUNGA Crossing while barge ropes were changed.

Stopped at INAWAIA Mission to inform Fr. VERGES that materials for INAWABUI classrooms had been ordered.

Arrived EBOA at 1400 hrs. and commenced census at 1500 hrs. Census adjourned at 1620 hrs due to heavy rain.

D.I.E.S. films were shown at EBOA villagers in the evening.

18th November, 1969

Recommenced census of EBOA at 0730 hrs. and completed it at 1400 hrs.

Inspected village, trade stores, vehicles, shotguns and Council water project.

Addressed EBOA Women's Club. Meanwhile D.I.E.S. films were being shown at INAWAIA R.C. Mission school.

Had talks with EBOA men in the evening about Local Government Councils, the purpose and functions and demonstrated their dependence on the people's support by building up the structure of the government with matchboxes. Meanwhile D.I.E.S. films were being shown at INAWAIA village.

19th November, 1969

Left EBOA at 0730 hrs. arriving INAWABUI at 0810 hrs. Rest House too small for the Patrol so had to wait for other arrangements to be made.

Commenced census of INAWABUI at 1030 hrs. and adjourned it at 1600 hrs.

Conducted police investigation into an attempted rape.

Inspected vehicles and shotguns.

D.I.E.S. films were shown to INAWABUI villagers in the evening.

20th November, 1969

Recommenced census of INAWABUI at 0730 hrs. and completed it at 1000 hrs.

A.D.C. visited Patrol for 30 minutes and talked to villagers about land known as DA.3.30.

Inspected village, trade stores and possible well site.

Showed villagers how to build a dam to prevent their village from being flooded every year.

Addressed INAWABUI Women's Club.

Addressed INAWABUI Savings Club.

Addressed children of INAWABUI R.C. Mission school and had talks with the teachers.

D.I.E.S. projectionist sent on to BEIPA and APEANA.

On their request, had further discussions with the Women's and Savings Clubs.

Had informal talks with villagers in the evening.

21st November, 1969

Explained census figures to INAWABUI villagers and answered relevant questions. Departed INAWABUI at 1000 hrs. En route took details of an unregistered and uninsured truck on the road for subsequent prosecution. Arrived in BEREINA at 1130 hrs. Attended Court as prosecutor against census defaulters.

24th November, 1969

Attended to various administrative duties arising from Patrol. Departed BEREINA at 1030 hrs. arriving at INAWAE at 1050 hrs. Commenced census of INAWAE at 1100 hrs. and completed it at 1245 hrs. Talked with some villagers over lunch then inspected village, shotguns and trade store. Visited ANGABUNGA Mission and had talks with Br. BOTTON in charge. Had informal talks with the men of INAWAE in the evening on the need for them to support their Council.

25th November, 1969

Awaited Administration transport at INAWAE as arranged. Used Mission Land Rover to go to BEREINA and chase up Toyota utility. Eventually departed INAWAE at 1030 hrs. and arrived at INAWI at 1100 hrs. Commenced census of INAWI at 1115 hrs. and adjourned it at 1500 hrs. having run out of forms. Cycled to BEREINA to see why forms had not been sent out as promised. Typed and ran off improvised census forms and cycled back to INAWI.

26th November, 1969

Recommenced census of INAWI at 0800 hrs. and completed it at 1500 hrs. Interviewed applicants for the position of Council Welfare Assistant Trainee. Whilst talking with the Councillors and some Chiefs and other men, the Patrol Leader was taken outside and made to sit in a chair whereupon a team of 14 grass-skirted girls danced into an improvised arena and thus entertained the Patrol. After about an hour they invited the Patrol Leader to dance with them; he was soon followed by his cock and two policemen and the dancing went on till 2330 hrs. with the Chiefs looking on in amused approval and chanting all the time.

27th November, 1969

Inspected INAWI village, trade stores, vehicles, shotguns and Council water project. Visited INAWI R.C. Mission school and talked with the teachers. Addressed INAWI Girls' Club and PAISA PAISA Girls' Club. Attended Courts conducted by Mr. KAKAE AVAISA, M.L.C. Relieved two Village Committee men of their office by popular request and in consultation with the Councillors and ceremonially transferred the office to two other men during the flag parade at sunset.



27th November, 1969  
continued .....

Began to talk to the Chiefs and village men about the need for their country to be united under a government which has their full support when suddenly they all started to laugh. On turning around the 14 grass-skirted dancing girls were seen in the improvised arena keyed up for a repeat performance. The men explained that as we had so obviously enjoyed ourselves the night before they had arranged it again for us. They asked the Patrol Leader to fix a night for talks in the near future and 22nd December was agreed upon. The Patrol then danced until 0200 hrs. with the men chanting and joking meantime. It was noticeable that, whether in deference to the Patrol Leader's teetotalism or not, no drink was to be seen at either of these dances.

28th November, 1969

Awaited Administration transport at INAWI as arranged. None arrived and, as all the village trucks had been broken by the rough road, the Patrol walked to BEREINA. On arrival a truck was sent out to pick up the Patrol equipment. This delay resulted in tax defaulter courts having to be postponed as the Patrol Leader was not there to prosecute and give evidence. Attended to various administrative matters arising from Patrol.

1st December, 1969

Departed BEREINA at 0930 hrs. and inspected work of grader at INAWAE village prior to picking up Council Tax Team at ANGABUVGA Crossing.

Arrived AIPEANA 1040 hrs. and went to St. Gerrard's Hospital for treatment to a swollen and deaf ear.

Commenced census of AIPEANA at 1130 hrs. and adjourned it at 1700 hrs.

Heard minor disputes and settled them by arbitration.

In the evening the Patrol was entertained by schoolchildren singing and dancing to their own musical accompaniment.

2nd December, 1969

Paid an official visit to St. GERRARD's Hospital and had talks with Srs. CHRISTINE and DENISE.

Recommenced census of AIPEANA at 1000 hrs. and completed it at 1500 hrs.

Inspected shotguns and vehicles.

Talked with villagers in the evening about the need for them to develop their resources, support their government, and emerge as a united people.

3rd December, 1969

Inspected village, trade stores and Council water project.

Discussed a land dispute with the parties concerned.

Due to a death in the family the day before, they were not willing to visit the disputed area and allowed a chain and compass survey to be made.

Visited St. PAUL's School and had talks with Sr. PERPETUA.

(54)

3rd December, 1969  
continued .....

Inspected Council Store and checked stores.  
Explained census figures to interested  
villagers of AIPANA.  
Departed AIPANA by tractor and trailer  
at 1600 hrs. crossing the ANGABUNGA by  
canoe. Arrived ORIROPETANA at 1645 hrs.  
Had talks with village men. The Patrol  
Leader's love of dancing must have leaked  
out from INAWI as guitars started to play  
and girls in grass skirts appeared and  
a Village Committee man's daughter invited  
him to step down and dance with them.  
He did so till 0100 hrs. Again, no drink  
was to be seen.

4th December, 1969

Commenced census of ORIROPETANA at 0800 hrs.  
and completed it at 1200 hrs.  
Heard several complaints about the Ferryman  
and after investigating them and talking  
with the Ferryman he was given notice to  
quit with effect from 31st. December, 1969.  
A new man, MAINO AUVE, is taking over on  
1st January, 1970.  
Investigated a welfare case.  
Inspected the village, shotguns, water  
supply and pig and cattle farm sites.  
Addressed Women's Club and discussed and  
advised on their problems.  
Talked with over 100 villagers in the  
evening about the need for them to support  
their government and make their country  
strong.

5th December, 1969

Departed ORIROPETANA at 0800 hrs. and met  
tractor and trailer at ANGABUNGA Ferry as  
arranged.  
Investigated a marriage dispute at an  
AIPANA hamlet.  
Arrived BEREINA at 1030 hrs. and attended  
Courts for census and tax defaulters until  
1615 hrs.

6th December, 1969

Attended to various administrative matters  
arising from Patrol and did some Council  
clerical work.

8th December, 1969

Departed BEREINA for BEIPA stopping at an  
AIPANA hamlet to continue discussions on  
the marriage dispute. Arrived BEIPA at  
0940 hrs. and commenced census at 1000 hrs.  
Census adjourned at 1445 hrs. because of  
heavy rain.  
Inspected vehicles and shotguns and had  
discussions with Councillors and Village  
Committee men.  
In the evening the Patrol attended St. PAUL's  
R.C. Mission school concert.

9th December, 1969

The Patrol attended St. PAUL's R.C. Mission  
School Sports from 0800 hrs. to 1030 hrs.  
Had talks with village men about the  
possibilities of expanding the economy  
of the area.  
Inspected BEIPA village, trade stores,  
bakeries, and Council water project.  
The Patrol attended St. PAUL's School  
Children's Sing-Sing Show.  
Visited BEIPA R.C. Mission in the evening  
and had talks with Frs. DIAZ, COLTRETZ and  
BOUDON and Mr. ROGET.

10th December, 1969

Recommenced census of BEIPA at 0800 hrs.  
/6.....



10th December, 1969  
continued .....

and completed it at 1600 hrs.  
Talked to the men in the evening about  
the need to develop the resources of  
their country, be united and support  
their chosen government.

11th December, 1969

Talked with some Chiefs and others who  
wanted to further discuss the previous  
night's talk.  
Addressed BEIPA Savings Club and two  
Women's Clubs separately.  
Prosecuted tax defaulters at BEIPA before  
Mr. KAEKAE AVAISA, M.L.C.  
Visited St. GERRARD's Hospital for talks  
with Sr. DENISE.  
Settled dispute by arbitration.  
Left BEIPA at 1400 hrs. by tractor and  
trailer and arrived AMOAMO at 1430 hrs.  
Inspected village, shotguns and water  
supply.  
Addressed AMOAMO Women's Club.  
Gave political education talk to the  
villagers in the evening.

12th December, 1969

Commenced census of AMOAMO at 0800 hrs.  
and completed it at 1000 hrs.  
Departed AMOAMO by tractor and trailer  
at 1040 hrs. and arrived in BEREINA at  
1210 hrs.  
Attended court as prosecutor against tax  
defaulters.

13th December, 1969

Attended the wedding of Mr. CHARLIE MAINO, Jr.  
at INAWI.

14th December, 1969

Attended to various administrative matters  
arising from Patrol.

15th December, 1969

Attended meeting of Councillors in BEREINA  
with the Commission for the House of Assembly  
on Electoral Procedures. Sent the Patrol  
team on ahead to RARAI to set up camp.  
Departed BEREINA at 1400 hrs. by Toyota  
and arrived at RARAI at 1545 hrs.  
Had talks with the village men.  
In the evening talked to the whole village  
about developments in the world and how  
the Territory must grow up quickly in  
order to accept its future role in the  
world as an independent nation.

16th December, 1969

Commenced census of RARAI at 0800 hrs.  
and completed it at 1230 hrs.  
Inspected the village, trade stores,  
bakery and shotguns.  
Addressed the Women's Club.  
Departed RARAI at 1400 hrs. with carriers -  
inspected RARAI Aid Post en route - crossing  
river by canoe 4 or 5 at a time. Arrived  
BEREO 1545 hrs. Carriers returned to  
RARAI.  
Gave villagers political education talk  
in the evening.

(12)

17th December, 1969

Commenced census of BEEBO at 0800 hrs. completing it at 0930 hrs. Inspected village, shotguns and well and talked with some men. Departed BEEBO at 1030 hrs. with carriers (some of them children) arriving INAWAUNI at 1300 hrs. Carriers returned to BEEBO. Commenced census of INAWAUNI at 1500 hrs. and completed it at 1645 hrs. Inspected village, shotguns and cocoa plantation. Gave political education talk in the evening.

18th December, 1969

Departed INAWAUNI at 0745 hrs. with carriers arriving at IMOUNGA at 1100 hrs. Most carriers returned to INAWAUNI, others stayed to return with the Patrol the next day. Inspected village, shotguns and water supply. Denounced Cdr. AKRAFU OAEPIKO for gross neglect of his duties as a Councillor. He admitted he was a useless Councillor and publicly confessed that he was ashamed of himself for having been of such little help to the people. His resignation was tendered in accordance with Section 26(1) (a) of the Local Government Ordinance. Commenced census of IMOUNGA at 1500 hrs. completing it at 1700 hrs. Gave political education talk in the evening.

19th December, 1969

Departed IMOUNGA at 0845 hrs. with carriers arriving at INAWAUNI at 1230 hrs. Had a meal with Councillor and Village Committee men of INAWAUNI. Most carriers refused to go further so all members of the Patrol carried to BEEBO. Sent note to INAWAIA and awaited transport. AME KAPE's tractor duly arrived at 2200 hrs.

20th December, 1969

Refreshments were waiting for us at INAWAIA and then the Patrol moved on to the ANGABUNGA Crossing. Hired ANGABUNGA Mission Land Rover and arrived in BEREINA at 0300 hrs.

21st December, 1969

Worked on census figures.

22nd December, 1969

Performed the duties of MEKEO Council Clerk. Travelled to INAWI at 1700 hrs. by Toyota to give political education talk as previously arranged (see 27th November, 1969). Talk well-attended and well-received.

23rd December, 1969

Returned to BEREINA at 1230 hrs. after a half-hour drive.



SITUATION REPORT

POLITICAL

1. The MEKEO Local Government Council has existed since 1961 and the people as a whole do not give it much support. Out of some 2,000 males who are eligible to pay tax there are 1,013 tax defaulters to date.
2. Few people seem to have a good word to say about the MEKEOS in their attitudes to Local Government and in his Report on Patrol No. 1 of 1969/70 Mr. BEARD told of how some villages were openly hostile to the Council. This is just one of several such derogatory reports.
3. In his 41-23-13 dated 21st October, 1968 the Acting Regional Local Government Officer, referring to efforts to make the Council more effective by attempting Court action against tax defaulters said, "However, I am afraid that little progress has been achieved and, if anything, the retrogressive trend has continued. For this I do not blame any one, as the Mekeopeople seem to have long become immuned to advice, exhortation or coercion."
4. And in his 41-23-7 dated 11th July, 1969 the Regional Finance Officer said, "It is futile to report on this Council regarding its effectiveness as a Local Government body. Everybody who has anything to do with the Council knows the difficulty it has in having any real effect on the lives of the MEKEO people. Very real efforts have been made in the past two years, especially to enforce the Council's Tax Rules but have met with very little success."
5. As he prepared for this Patrol the writer was rather discouraged to read several other reports of similar sentiments on the MEKEO people and their Council. But he was soon to be very pleasantly surprised.
6. Whilst these reports are all true, it is felt by the writer personally that the attitudes of the MEKEOS are, in part, a reaction to our attitudes to them. We can take them to Court and force them to pay their taxes but this merely increases their resentment of the Council. We cannot force them to stand behind their Council, take an interest in it, and give it their wholehearted support. And unless they do this of their own volition, the Council has little chance of making good.
7. Perhaps it was the case that the Council was thrust upon the people by a well-meaning Administration without the people having been fully convinced of its desirability. The writer says this because, during the political education talks the people in many villages said, "Why has no one told us this before?" Of course they had been talked to by previous Patrols and told they should support their Council and work and pay tax. Then they would give reasons why they should not and an argument would ensue which invariably did little to enhance the dignity and prestige of the Council.
8. Overall the people seemed to respond most favourably to this Patrol but talking and pledging repentance is easy - and possibly only temporary. Overnight miracles are not expected. But as they were made aware of the need for Local Government Councils, and what could happen to their country if they did not support their chosen government, their cynicism seemed to melt perceptibly and searching and intelligent questions and discussion followed. (Details of the substance of these talks are given in paragraphs 147 to 155). Although the people's reaction was most encouraging the following extract from the Regional Local Government Officer's 41-23-13 dated 10th October, 1969 is a judicious assessment, "You and your Officers at BEREINA are fully aware of the problems in the MEKEO Council area and it is apparent that any change will come very slowly."

9. As a result of the people's attitudes hitherto many of their Councillors are not really the best men for the job. A lot of good men have not stood for election because of the poor image the Council has and other good men who have stood have not been elected because the people have preferred a man who will not push them, even if it is for their own good.

10. Whilst there are some people in the MEKEO who have a well-informed sense of political awareness, most have not. They know that there is a House of Assembly and that they voted for someone to be their representative there, but most of them had never heard of Ministers or Ministerial Members in charge of government Departments. And many were quite shocked to learn how fast the European is handing over the government of the Territory to the indigenous people of Papua and New Guinea. The following extract from the Sub-District Annual Report for 1968/69 summarizes the situation :-

"Life is at a village level and the small disruptions and arguments at this level are of greater significance than the House of Assembly and actions of the Administration."

#### ECONOMIC

11. The economy of the area has been described as the "betelnut economy" due to the ease with which betelnut can be grown, harvested and transported to PORT MORESBY for marketing. The whole process involves very little work and yields a high return and so the people have not felt convinced that there is any need for them to diversify and develop their agricultural resources more fully when this would only mean harder work and more responsibility for less money. One can hardly blame them.

12. However, since Mr. JOHN COOPER of D.A.S.F. was accepted as the Council's Agricultural Adviser at its meeting held on 7th November, 1969 and a five-member Council Agricultural Committee formed, great interest has been aroused in agricultural development and training in the MEKEO area.

13. Prior to this Patrol the writer spent several days with Mr. COOPER learning as much as possible about the conditions for Rural Development Bank assistance for cattle farms, pig farms and tractor loans and also studied plans for the building of the Ceylon (drumless) Copra Drier. This information was incorporated in the political education talk when the need for them to develop their agricultural resources to make their country strong was explained. It was also explained why betelnut does nothing to help the country. The response in the form of men wishing to go to other districts for several months' training and men interested in developing their land agriculturally was very pleasing (see Appendices XII and XIII).

14. Mr. COOPER has been given all the necessary information, all enquiries are being followed up and arrangements made for men to go away for training.

15. In addition to this, many people are eagerly awaiting the completion of the PORT MORESBY/BEREINA road link as this will greatly facilitate marketing of cash crops by reducing freight costs and enabling vegetables to be sold while they are still fresh.

16. At present the cost of travel from BEIPA, the largest village in the Sub-District, to PORT MORESBY is as follows :-

BEIPA to ANGABUNGA Crossing	:	\$5.00 by truck
ANGABUNGA Crossing to IROBO Landing	:	\$5.00 by truck
IROBO LANDING to KAIRUKU	:	\$5.00 by launch
KAIRUKU to PORT MORESBY	:	\$14.00 by launch
Total cost - single journey ....	:	<u>\$29.00</u>



This mode of travel, taking 2 days, allows the traveller to take several bags of betelnut with him at no extra cost. If he wishes to take only 1 bag it is cheaper and quicker by air :-

BEREINA to PORT MORESBY per PATAIR : \$11.90 single  
1 extra bag of betelnut : \$10.00 freight  
Total cost - single journey : \$21.90

17. Many people have said that when the road is completed they will buy their own trucks. (Details of motor vehicles in the MEKEO at present are shown in APPENDIX IV).

18. The people have been told that they should be planting more coffee, cocoa, copra, etc. now in preparation for the ease of access to markets in PORT MORESBY on completion of the new road.

#### SOCIAL

19. Overall, the MEKEO people are said to be amongst the best educated people in the Territory. Of the three indigenous men who have graduated from Australian Universities, two are MEKEOS : namely JOHN WATERA (Agriculture) and JOSEPH AWAI (Law). Four MEKEO men are currently studying for degrees at the University of Papua and New Guinea. They are :-

2 from INAWI studying LAW  
1 from INAWI studying ARTS (Major in ECONOMICS).  
1 from JESUBAIBUA studying MEDICINE

20. Many boys and girls are attending secondary schools both inside and outside the district (see Appendix XV). Most students, having come home for Christmas, were in the villages when the Patrol visited and the consequent abundance of competent ENGLISH/MEKEO interpreters did much to enhance the effect of the political education talks.

21. The Roman Catholic Mission at BEIPA provides education services to nearly half of the MEKEO population. In close proximity are the villages of BEIPA, AIPANA, INAWI, AMOAMO and ORIOPETANA with a total population of 2,830. All the children from these villages attend St. PAUL's Roman Catholic Mission School at BEIPA (see Appendix VI).

22. St. GERRARD's Roman Catholic Mission Hospital at BEIPA provides medical services to the whole area. Sr. CHRISTINE is in charge with Srs. DENISE and JEANNE (a TOLAI), both recent additions, assisting.

23. Two nursing aides, paid by the Council, are also helping and six more are expected to arrive when the new accommodation block has been completed.

24. Nine MEKEO girls are at present undergoing nurse's training here.

25. In addition to this hospital there is an Aid Post at RARAI staffed by a Medical Orderly from the KUNI. This Aid Post is in need of repair but such repairs are at present beyond the financial resources of the Council.

26. In spite of over 70 years of mission contact the primitive beliefs and superstitions still have a strong hold on the people. In varying degrees sorcery is practiced in every village but is most prevalent in the EAST MEKEO, particularly in INAWAIA, JESUBAIBUA, EBOA and INAWABUI. In fact, because of his fluent MEKEO, the INAWAIA people were convinced that Fr. VERGES, the priest in charge of INAWAIA Mission Station, was a reincarnated MEKEO.

27. Also at INAWAIA Mission at present is Br. EDMUND OAKE (22) of JESUBAIBUA. (A)

28. Details of Women's Clubs are shown in Appendix VII. All Women's Clubs are having difficulty in knowing what to do with themselves. All Clubs were addressed with a view to finding a suitable young lady to go to AHIOMA for ten months training, thence to return as the Council's full-time Welfare Assistant. She would then travel around the MEKEO villages helping and leading the Women's Clubs towards definite goals.

29. Young ladies were interviewed in the following villages :-

INAWABUI	:	1
INAWI	:	3
ORIROPETANA	:	1
BEIPA	:	3
AMOAMO	:	1
		<hr/>
Total	.....	9

30. All applicants were interviewed by the Patrol Leader and some were quickly eliminated as they were either too young or had not attained the prerequisite Standard 6 education in spite of the fact they had been told it was necessary. Of the remainder, some were being pushed by friends and relatives and were not really keen on the idea themselves, others wanted to go but their parents were against it, and in two cases the applicant was keen to go for training, had the blessing of her parents, but neither thought it permissible for a young lady to tour the MEKEO villages on her own after her training.

31. Attempts, therefore, to find a suitable trainee for the position of Council Welfare Assistant, were fruitless.

32. Leadership in the MEKEO seems to fall into three major categories :-

1. The young well-educated men who feel they should be leaders but whose influence is confined to their own age group.
2. The old traditional leaders, many of whom say they are losing their influence, particularly over the younger generation, and who also, in some cases, resent the "asserted" leadership of some Councillors.
3. The Local Government Councillors who should be leading their people towards progressive improvement of their community but of whom precious few have any leadership qualities.

See (Appendix VIII).

33. It is peculiar that, in spite of the relatively high standard of education of the MEKEO people, and their comparatively long contact with Europeans, no man has emerged who can be called a political leader. Whether this is due to the above three-cornered conflict of leadership, or to the fact that the MEKEOs are still segmented at village level with jealousies and grudges still rife, is debatable but one would suspect the latter to be the more likely reason.

34. The BEIPA people have not forgotten that they owe the people of AHIOMA pay-back for a man's death four years ago, and the Mission staff tell how the people from these two villages leave the Church from different exits after Mass to avoid a conflict.



35. Other such disputes are commonplace in this area and attempts were made on this Patrol to make the people aware of the need to think of themselves as a united people, not merely at census division level, but on a national level as well. (47)

36. Many entrepreneurs complained that when their businesses were going well others would get very jealous and make trouble or use sorcery against them.

37. Unless this state of affairs can be overcome there seems little future for the MEKRO area and yet this Patrol has shown that many people are learning to look at a world beyond the village and are willing to do their bit to work and make their contribution towards strengthening their country with a view to its becoming self-sufficient politically, educationally and economically.

(8)

PATROL DAIRY

Since I only joined the Patrol No 6 1969/70 when it was halfway through the Mekeo Census Division, I shall only be able to report on from 8th. December to the end of the Patrol which was 20th. December 1969.

The following villages I shall be reporting on are alphabetically, AMOAMO, BEBEO, BEIPA'A, IMOUNGA, INAWAUNI and RARAI, however the patrol wasn't conducted in this sequence.

- 8-12-69      Departed for Beipa'a at 09.00 hours stopped at a hamlet 3 miles south of Beipa'a for the claim of bride payment. The informant's name was....~~P.~~.....  
.....~~P.~~.....however the man who was responsible was away at the time the patrol was at the hamlet.
- Arrived at Beipa'a about 0940 hours Mr. D.J. Christie (O.I.C. of Patrol) introduced me to the L.C.M. (Kaekae Avaisa) and asked where we would stay until we left.
- We were given the chief's club-house. The patrol gear was unloaded onto the club-house and the census books were prepared for the census.
- Started census at 10.00 hrs. and continued until 14.45. Of course there was a short break for lunch. We postponed the census recording until Wednesday because there were signs of storm and it was starting to drizzle.
- 9-12-69      Had a day from Census. Inspected the Village, trade-stores, bakeries (the last two for their licences) and noted down the number of houses under three headings - (NM, NMSP & SP see appendix) We particularly looked to see if the bakeries were conforming the health regulation.
- 10-12-69      Continued to take Census starting at 08.00 hrs and worked until about 16.45 hrs. Talked to the men about 20.00 hrs. in the evening. The men were told that the spread of Communism throughout Europe, some countries of Africa and into South East Asia and the next place it might go to is Papua and New Guinea. Now the Australia is handing over the Government of Papua and New Guinea and it is very important that the people like the Mekeos supported their Government if they wanted it to be strong. The men were also told that now is the time that they woke up and started working for themselves.
- 11-12-69      -Visited the two womens' clubs in the village and told them that positions were vacant for 21 or over year old girl with standard six education to be trained as a Welfare Assistant.
- As common to all Mekeo people the women were reluctant in letting their daughters go away because of the fear that they might get married. In the whole ~~census division~~ <sup>Mekeo Division</sup> only two girls were interviewed but of the two one's mother was a bit unwilling so really only one girl was interviewed for the position as Welfare Assistant. The women were told that the period of course was 10 months at Milne Bay.



(7)

PATROL DIARY

- 11-12-69 -cont.
- The women were also told that after she has been trained she will come back to her own people (the makeo as a whole) and assist in the running of women's clubs, etc.
  - Reported Beipa's for Anomano at about 13.30 hrs. when we arrived at Anomano we inspected the village and counted the No. of living houses. During our inspection we noted that the drinking and cooking water didn't look very healthy because the Anomano people got their water out of an on-bow lake (a meander) and I stress here too that they use the same water for bathing, and the distance between the drinking and bathing points is only about 10yds. It is surprising enough that the standard of water like this at Anomano not affecting many lives. Only three deaths this year (1969).
  - talked to the women's club at about 14.00 hrs. and talked to the men about 20.00 hrs. in the evening. The talk to the former group was based on the facts that a 21 year old girl (or older) with standard 6 education was wanted for the position as a Welfare Assistant and the training centre was at Milne Bay lasting 10 months.
  - The men were given some factual events of today concerning the Government, that is, the handing over of Government to Papua New Guineans and we told them that their support was needed. This talk was more or less a repetition of what was said at BEIPA's.
- 12-12-69 -Commenced census for Anomano village at 08.00 hrs. and finished at about 09.30 hrs.  
The patrol then returned to Boreina Station.
- 15-12-69 -Departed Boreina 10.00 hrs. and stopped at Aipeana. I took charge of the patrol in the meantime because Mr. P.J. Christie (the OIC of patrol) was left behind at Boreina to meet the Commission from the House of Assembly with the councillors of the sub-district and to have meeting until about 15.00 hrs. I hired the Aipeana tractor for Rarai. Arrived at Rarai about 14.30 hrs. Inspected the village and noted down the No. of living houses. Also looked at the trade-stores (4), a bakery and the three (3) cemeteries.
- 16-12-69 -Took census from 08.00 hrs. to 12.00 hrs. Arranged carriers for the patrol gear to be carried from Rarai to Beboo. Departed Rarai at about 13.30 hrs. crossing the Angabunga river and arrived at Beboo 15.30 hrs. the carriers were paid 40c (10 cents per hour) and a stick of tobacco. The forty cents included both ways.
- 17-12-69 -Took census for ~~Anomano~~ Beboo village 08.00 hrs. Inspected the village and took note of the No. of living houses.  
Departed Beboo for Inawauni crossing a tributary of Angabunga river. Carriers from Beboo were paid 50c plus two sticks of tobacco.  
Took census at Inawauni about 15.00 hrs. and finished at about 16.30 hrs.

PATROL DIARY

(6)

Thursday - 18-12-69

- We had difficulties in obtaining carriers
- left INAWAUNI about 7.30 a.m. and arrived at Imounga at about 10.45 a.m.
- We told the Imounga councillor that there weren't sufficient men at Imounga to carry our things back so we would like the carriers from INAWAUNI to stay with us that night, but the councillor didn't tell the carriers and we moved off.
- When we arrived at Imounga the carriers from INAWAUNI wanted to return home straight away so they wanted their pay. We told them that, if 5 carriers stayed back we would be alright then. Anyway five carriers decided to stay back but the rest without telling us (probably because of the fear that we might tell them to stay) ran away to their homes.
- took census from 3.00 p.m. till about 4.30 p.m.

Friday - 19-12-69

- Left Imounga with 8 carriers helping the 5 carriers from INAWAUNI to carry the <sup>camp gear</sup> barge to INAWAUNI. On arrival at INAWAUNI, we found that the village was almost empty of people. The councillor told the village people to go to the gardens so that when we arrive from Imounga we won't have anybody to carry for us. The councillor himself was at the village and he came storming at us that we didn't pay the carriers. We answered him that if the carriers from Inawauni wanted to go when we were at Imounga they would come to us to get their pay before they go, but he ignored us and went to the village. One of the Beipa's councillor (Paul) who was with us told him that you represent the government body and you shouldn't be doing this. At this words he went striding down to the village and soon came back with the council barge that he had. Mind you he wasn't wearing the barge when we arrived. He threw the barge onto the rest-houses
- when things got cooled down a bit then the barge was given back to the councillor and he was told not to get cross because it was the fault of the carriers.
- The councillor himself then came and shook hands with Mr. D.J. Christie and I gave him a few sticks of tobacco to please him.
- We then carried our own gear with the help of 6 <sup>men</sup> from Imounga to Bebeo.
- On arrival at Bebeo all the men and young men like me who carried were payed by Mr. D. J. Christie.
- Sent for the Inawaia tractor.
- it arrived at about 10 p.m. and we departed for Bereina station.
- stopped for a short while at Inawaia
- on arrival at Angabunga we were lucky to have the barge on our side so we crossed.
- borrowed the mission landrover to get to the station so that we could get the Government Toyota.
- By the time we were at the station it was 3 o'clock Saturday morning.

End of Patrol.



2. SITUATION REPORT

Political - the people of MEKEO as a whole don't pay much attention to Local Government Council. They know that it is there but they don't really know what it is there for or for what purpose does it exist in their villages.

Similarly the people don't really know what the House of Assembly is and where do the ministers of the big departments stand.

Probably, it<sup>has</sup> not been explained to them. It is perhaps for this reason that not much attention is paid to the above two paragraphs.

In terms of Political Education, the people of Mekeo don't know the form of Government and what it is made of.

In answer to this uncertainty, a talk was given to most men of each village and in some cases women and children came along too. The men were shown the shape in which the Government stand and the people like the Mekeo were the bottom line that is holding up the Government, and it was most important that the people like the Mekeo supported their Government. To do this they should listen to what their councillors said.

There were few men amongst the crowd in each village who tend to oppose us by throwing questions or making comments that were out of the topic.

Economic - rural development - There are 4 types of crops grown. namely coffee, cocoa, rice and coconuts. Really only the first three introduced crops now exist in the area because the coconut has been here all the time. However, now the people of few villages such as Beipa'a started to realise the importance of spacing out the coconut plants more economically.

COFFEE (robusta). Few people of such village as INAWAUNI have planted coffee, but when the plants bear fruits the problems of marketing them and how to get them to the market quickly. For this above reason the crops now have been left with weeds all around them.

COCOA - This crop grown in some villages covering quite a few acres. The village such as Beipa'a, Bebeo and Inawauni grow this crop, but for the same reason as stated in the above paragraph that the people have left the crops with weeds grown all over them. Another minor reason is that this crops are labour intensive and since the Mekeo people are more of an individual, not as a group working people, they don't help the owner of the crop to harvest it or to do whatever necessary labouring.

RICE - Rice is generally grown, harvested and eaten or sold to Bereina station and to some stores in the village concerned.

The rice when harvested requires to be threshed and winnowed and I've seen stack of rice with straw in Beipa'a not threshed and winnowed.

The people of Mekeo are interested in Cattle farming. Several mens' names have been taken and they have been told that they will be sent to the Highlands to learn how to look after the cattle. They have also being told too that, the length of time in which they would be at the Highlands which is 3 - 5 months.

(4)

## 2. SITUATION REPORT

**Social - Education.** The standard of education generally from children to old men is reasonably high. This has been enable by the Roman Catholic Mission.

**Mission-** The mission runs both the school which has about 664 children and the hospital which is the best in the Sub-District. The Mission supplies its own medicine but postal material is supplied by the Government hospital at Bereina. Of course a lot of students from Mekeo go to Government schools.

**Law** - The people of Mekeo have respect for law, yet at other times when the councillors come around to collect tax fee some people are a bit unwilling to pay their tax, nevertheless they still know the law is there to enforce them to pay.

**Womens' Club** - We had difficulty in getting a 21 year old girl with Standard 6 Education. In the villages I was at there was only one girl whose parents were prepared in letting their daughter go to Milne Bay for the length of time of 10 months to train as a Welfare Assistant and she can get back to her own people (the Mekeos) after her training and help them to run the Womens' Club more efficiently and other things too.

**Miscellaneous - Attitudes towards Administration.** the people of Mekeo are not too ignorant in their attitudes towards Administration and yet they are not too fully aware of what the Administration does. Probably the next two paragraphs will clarify it more fully.

-The people were on the whole very hospitable for the patrol because we didn't have to cook the food that we took with us. There was always food in the house that we stay in whatever village. We were left alone too, there was always men to talk to us from morning till when we went to bed. The people were quite willing to listen to what the officers of the patrol said, and when we told them whatever legal facts concerning the queries they had, they listened attentively.



AREA STUDY

Attitudes towards Central Government

Most Mekeo people are generally unaware of the activities of the Government however there are few who are politically aware of what is happening in the Government and the House of Assembly.

The people themselves didn't know that there are different departments in the Government and that there is a ministerial members alongside the Ministers for big departments.

There is a high percentage of absenteeism of people trading in Port Moresby or being employed somewhere in the territory.

There are few men from various villages who show good leadership qualities even though they are not leaders themselves. Especially few Kuni men who have been accepted in villages such as RARAI and Imounga. One of the Kuni men from RARAI by the name of Anthony Louim was one of the outspoken men at the talk in RARAI on Monday night. There was also an old man (a Mekeo) from RARAI who during the talk asked very sensible questions as what is a communist as different from democratic form of Government.

The living standard of Mekeo villages are reasonably good. A lot more European introduced crops such as rice, meat, etc are consumed.

Communication on the whole is not very efficient especially going from RARAI to Bebeo, Inawauni and Imounga because there are many obstacles and roads are very bad.

Anaya Oa

ANAYA OA,  
Trainee Patrol Officer.

GOILALA

sub-district

2

BUSH MEKEO

C/D Area 250 sq miles



KEY

weather road

dry weather access road

walking track

MAKUNGA RIVER

Ufafa River

Imounga Rest house

X Aid Post Rest house

Inghouni house

Bebeo Rest house

Amoo

Berga Hospital

OREKE (Angabinga) River

MEKEO

C/D Area 202 sq miles

IKUNI

C/D Area 282 sq miles

WAINA KIVORI C/D Area 67 sq miles

EPD (BEREINA STATION)

RORO

C/D Area 218 sq miles



APPENDIX NO. 2

VILLAGE	NO. OF LIVING HOUSE	NATIVE MATERIAL	NATIVE MATERIAL & S.P.	S.P.	TOTAL
BEIPA'A	107		8	3	118
ALOALO	32		-	-	32
RARAI	43		5	-	48
LEDEO	21		-	-	21
IHAWAUNI	22		1	-	23
IMOUNGA	13		-	-	13
TOTAL	148		14	5	