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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MOROBE

STATION: Mumeng

VOLUME No: 15

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1969 - 1970

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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Patrol reports of Mumeng, Morobe Province

Volume no. 15: 1969/70

Number of reports: 1

Report number 7 - 1969/70, L.C. Hicks, Mumeng and part Buang Census Divisions, 19.6.70 - 3.7.70

67-6-128

PATROL REPORT NO 7-69, 70

— BY —

MR. L. C. HICKS

MUMENG

MOROBE DISTRICT.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of..... **MCROBE** Report No. **MUMENG 10.7 - 1969/70**
Sub-District: **MUMENG**
Patrol Conducted by..... **L.C. HIGGS - Patrol Officer**

Area Patrolled..... **MUMENG & PART BUANG CENSUS DIVISIONS**

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans..... **NO**

Mr. A. Snao Jongombe - Council Clerk
Natives Mr. B. Sammy - D.D.A. Clerk
Const. 1/C TATARA - R.P.N.G.C.

Duration—From..... **19 / 6 / 1970** to..... **3 / 7 / 1970**

Number of Days..... **10 (8 nights)**

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?..... **NO**

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services...../...../19.....

Medical/...../19.....

Paroisi **MARKHAM**

Map Reference.....

Objects of Patrol..... **COUNCIL ELECTIONS - MUMENG LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL**

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded please.

/ / 19

District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damag. Compensation £.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund £.....

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

MICK

In

F

KJH:KP

67-6-128

KONEJOBU, PAFUA.

24th March, 1971.

The District Commissioner,
Morobe District,
LAE.

MUMENG PATROL NO. 7-1969/70.

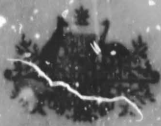
Your reference 67-2-4 of 13th January, 1971.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special Report
by Mr. L.C. Hicks, Patrol Officer of MUMENG and SIANG
Census Divisions.

It is pointless for me to add further comment to a
report received some nine months after completion of the
patrol.

Please instruct Mr. Hicks that I expect a decided
improvement in this aspect of his work.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Secretary.



67-6-128

FERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

20

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~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Department of the Administrator,
Division of District Administration,
Morobe District,
LAE.

13th January, 1971

Departmental Head,
Division of District Administration,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBUE.

MUMENG PATROL REPORT NO. 7/1969-70

Two copies of the above Report is enclosed.

As stated by the Assistant District Commissioner, Mumeng, the lateness of the report negates any value the report may have had, except to highlight the patrolling officer's poor performance.

I do not have anything to add to the Assistant District Commissioner's comments, a copy of which is attached.

B. Bunting

(B. BUNTING)
a/District Commissioner

(19)

67-2-1

AEC/gk

Sub-District Office,
MUMENG.

31st December, 1970.

The District Commissioner,
Division of District Administration,
Morobe District,
S.A.S.

MUMENG PATROL NO. 7 OF 1969/70.

I forward herewith original and two copies of report on the above patrol by Mr. Hicks, Patrol Officer, which covered part of all three Census Divisions in the Sub-District; the purpose of the patrol was to conduct General Elections for the Mumeng Council. Also attached is map of area patrolled and covering comments by Mr. Hicks.

As Mr. Hicks acknowledges, the report is long overdue. No explanation for late submission has been given. I agree with Mr. Hicks that the report is therefore of little value.

My Returning Officer's report was forwarded to the Regional Local Government Officer under cover of my 42-2-2 of 31st August, 1970, copy of which was sent to you. I will therefore comment only on Diary and Situation Report.

DIARY.

It is apparent, as Mr. Hicks says, that the patrol was hurried. Notwithstanding the fact that the patrol was put a day behind schedule by the non-appearance of the Sambic people on 22nd June, 1970 there was no absolutely no reason for conduct of polling on a Sunday, as per entry of 28th June 1970. Mr. Hicks should be aware of Departmental Directives on the subject of working on Sundays and of the provisions of the Local Government Ordinance, which clearly forbid polling on a Sunday. The effect of Mr. Hicks' ignorance of these Departmental and legal requirements was that Onala people were denied their rights to vote which they no doubt would have exercised had Mr. Hicks waited until the Monday. The Onala people's dissatisfaction with this treatment was subsequently expressed during a visit by Mr. Wilkinson, Patrol Officer to ascertain feelings over changes to ward boundaries.

Contrary to Mr. Hicks' assertions in his entry for 28th June 1970, the Onala people enjoy quite a happy relationship with the Bupu people as they expressly asked that Bupu and Onala be created as one Ward with Tewangala and Raggabu a separate ward. Instructions for amending the Council Constitution were recently forwarded to you incorporating these changes.

SITUATION REPORT:

The Situation Report could have included information on the social and economic scene and if Mr. Hicks had no time in which to make general observations in this regard, the patrol was obviously far too hurried.

Opposition to the formation of a multi-racial Council was not, as Mr. Hicks claims, based solely on disagreement with proposed ward boundary changes but rather on the widespread anti-European feeling existing in the area, particularly in the Mumeng Census Division.

(18)

GENERAL:

Mr. Hicks has a tendency for verbosity which adds nothing to the general quality of his reporting. In all, I consider this to be a disappointing performance both as a piece of reporting and as field exercise.

Camping Allowance claim is attached. Please forward one copy of map for my records.

L. E. Cooke,
Assistant District Commissioner.

c.c. Mr. L.C. Hicks,
Base Camp,
SARAJEVO.

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, likely a routing slip or administrative notes.]

17

SUPERVISORIAL PATROL

NO. 5 - 1969/70

ICM

Division of District Administration,
Patrol Post,
SARAIK.

INTRODUCTION

24th December 1970

The Assistant District Commissioner, out through part of the Sub-District Office, MIRINI 6, Marobe District. area, an area which is made up of the MIRINI 6, Marobe District. wards. The object of the patrol was to conduct General Elections for thirteen (13) wards out of a total of thirty (30). The remaining

Dear Sir,
Your memorandum 67-2-1 of 2nd July 1970 refers: SEBSEA RIDING PATROL REPORT - MIRINI 6, MAROBE DISTRICT by Mr. J. Kapetong, Administration Clerk acting as Poll clerks.

Attached herewith are copies of the above Report. It is regretted that the extreme lateness in submission probably detracts any value it may have had. Reference should also be made to my previous memorandum of 10th August 1970 concerning a report on the Elections as required by Section 37 of "Directions for conduct of Local Government Elections", which should be read in conjunction.

Also attached please find a claim for Conveyance Allowance for the period spent on patrol during the above Elections of the Marobe Local Government Council. Also attached please find a tracing of the patrol's route from which copies should be made to be attached to the various copies, please.

My apologies for the inconvenience caused. For your information and forwarding to the District Commissioner with your comments, please.

Leslie C. Hicks
.....
Leslie C. Hicks
Patrol Officer

c.c. The District Commissioner,
Marobe District,
LAE

Your correspondence 67-2-1 of 21st October 1970 and 69-2-4 1970 of 1st December 1970 to Assistant District Commissioner, Lae refers. Patrol Report MIRINI No. 5 of 1969/70 has been forwarded separately.

.....
Leslie C. Hicks
Patrol Officer

MUMENG PATROL

NO.7 - 1969/70

INTRODUCTION

This patrol was carried out through part of the Mumeng Council Area, an area which is made up of the Buang, Mumeng and Middle Watut Census Divisions. The object of the patrol was to conduct General Elections for thirteen (13) Council Wards out of a total of thirty (30). The remaining Wards were covered by a separate Election Team led by Mr. Linzon Banban, Council Administrative Officer and accompanied by Mr. J. G. Nilan, Assistant Patrol Officer and Mr. Gelindec Kapuctong, Administration Clerk acting as Poll Clerks.

This report covers the activities of the second of the two teams engaged in the General Elections for the Mumeng Local Government Council, namely led by Mr. L. C. Hicks, Patrol Officer and accompanied by Mr. Amenao Jengombe, Council Clerk and Mr. B. Sammy, Administration Clerk (Iae). Elections were carried out for four (4) wards out of the Mumeng Census Division; all wards - five (5) of the Middle Watut Census Division except for Sambio Village which is combined with Palenkwa Village; and four (4) Wards from the Buang Census Division. i.e. thirteen (13).

Saturday - 20th June 1970

Sunday - 21st June 1970

Monday - 22nd June 1970

MUMENG PATROL

NO.7 - 1969/70

INTRODUCTION

This patrol was carried out through part of the Mumeng Council Area, an area which is made up of the Buang, Mumeng and Middle Watut Census Divisions. The object of the patrol was to conduct General Elections for thirteen (13) Council Wards out of a total of thirty (30). The remaining Wards were covered by a separate Election Team led by Mr. Linzon Banban, Council Administrative Officer and accompanied by Mr. J. G. Nilan, Assistant Patrol Officer and Mr. Gelineac Kapuctong, Administration Clerk acting as Poll Clerks.

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Saturday - 21st June 1970

Sunday - 22nd June 1970

Monday - 23rd June 1970

(5)

PATROL DIARY

Period:- 19th June 1970 to 3rd July 1970

Wards Visited: (Chronological Order)

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | PAMARABOS - ZENAG | (Mumeng C/D) |
| 2. | TAIAK - GALAWO | (Middle Watot C/D) |
| 3. | KAPIN No.1- KAPIN No.2 | " |
| 4. | DAMBI - DANGAL | " |
| 6. | PIU - BIENAMA - GANAFU | " |
| 5. | GUMOTS | " |
| 7. | YANTA | (Mumeng C/D) |
| 8. | ENGABU | " |
| 9. | BUFU- TOWANGALA - OMALA | " |
| 10. | LAGIS - TOKANEN | (Buang C/D) |
| 11. | PAPEKINI | " |
| 12. | MANGA - BOGUMATU | " |
| 13. | KWASANG | " |

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Friday - 19th June 1970

Departed Mumeng Sub-District Office at approximately 10.00 AM. After collecting electoral equipment from Council House, picked up Electoral Team consisting of Mr. Amenao Jongombe, Council Clerk and Mr. B. Sammy, Administration Clerk from Lie. After a few minutes arrived at PAMARABOS Village. Due to a misunderstanding, the ZENAG people had been told to wait in their village for the patrol. Consequently I walked to Zenag Village and after informing the people there that the polling was to be held at PAMARABOS, returned to the latter Village with the majority of the Zenag people. Nominations received for PAMARABOS/ZENAG Ward - three. Elections conducted with Monagau/Gwasayo from Pamarabos Village elected. Returned to Mumeng.

Overnight Mumeng Station.

Saturday- 20th June 1970

Spent at Mumeng.

Sunday - 21st June 1970

Spent at Mumeng.

Monday - 22nd June 1970

1430hrs-Departed Mumeng Station per Administration Toyota with electoral team and after crossing the Snake River, arrived at SAMBIO Village at 1510hrs.

- PATROL DIARY -

Despite adequate warning that we were to be expected Monday and that a number of village men be ready to act as carriers, we arrived to find not a single man ready. A wait of 2 hours still did not produce enough men to carry all the patrol's gear. Consequently, I had no choice but to return to Mumeng for the night as the Rest-House and Police-house were in a bad state of repair.

Overnight Mumeng Station.

Tuesday - 23rd June 1970

0700hrs--Departed Mumeng per Administration Toyota and accompanied by electoral team, arrived SAMBIO Village at 0745hrs. This time sufficient men were ready and the patrol departed for TAIK Village. Here carriers were changed and after informing everyone that polling was to take place at GALAWO Village, the patrol moved on. On arrival at Galawo Village, nominations were received for the TAIK/GALAWO Ward - three nominations received. Elections carried out with Bap/Mungop of Galawo Village being elected after a count of second preferences. As we were now overdue in our election time-table, having been delayed a day by lack of carriers at Sambio Village on Monday, it was now necessary that the patrol push on immediately to KAPIN No.1 Village where it was planned to hold elections for the KAPIN No.1/KAPIN No.2 Ward. We arrived at Kapin No.1 Village to find that all the people from both villages concerned assembled ready. Nominations were received and from three nominations, Yindagen/Wwabulek of Kapin No.2 Village was elected.

Overnight KAPIN No.1 Village.

Wednesday- 24th June 1970

Departed Kapin No.1 Village with carriers from Kapin No.1 and Kapin No.2 Villages, the latter having to spend the night at Kapin No.1. Arrived at DAMBI Village, and after inspecting DANGAL Village across the WATUT River, took two nominations for the DAMBI/DANGAL Ward. The old Councillor, Mambuyong/Tukop retained his seat. At completion of Elections, departed DAMBI Village and arrived at PIU Village.

Overnight PIU Village.

Thursday - 25th June 1970

Leaving the majority of the patrol gear at PIU Village, the Electoral team departed for Gumots Village. After arrival nominations were accepted for the GUMOTS Ward. From those three nominations received, GIRINK/Wusif of Gumots Village was elected. Returned to PIU Village where BIAMBENA and GAWAPU Villages had already assembled. Nominations were

- PATROL DIARY -

received for the PIU/GAUAPU/BIAMENA Ward and from the three nominations received, Bembamun/Tokbun of Piu Village was elected.

Overnight PIU Village.

Friday - 26th June 1970

Departed Piu Village for YANTA Village. Arrived and 2 nominations excepted for the YANTA Ward. Elections held and Lumben/Mangba elected. Departed for ENGABU Village on completion of Elections.

Overnight ENGABU Village.

Saturday - 27th June 1970

In the morning two nominations were excepted for the ENGABU Ward and Galago/Kongi was elected. Departed Engabu Village. Sky overcast for most time since patrol had begun. Word was sent to TOWANGALA Village that the patrol would be arriving at BUPU Village that afternoon when polling would commence and our message acknowledged. Arrived BUPU Village at approximately 14 Chrs. OMALA Village was informed that we had arrived and we sat down to wait for Towangala and Omala Villages to arrive before commencing voting. The latter never arrived that afternoon although we had been informed that both villages were aware of our presence at BUPU Village. Rain and mist closed in for the night.

Overnight BUPU Village.

Sunday - 28th June 1970

We were informed in the morning that the TOWANGALA people had arrived after a very hard 3-hour walk from their village and since it had been raining hard in the night and was still drizzling, the rough, steep tracks had caused some delay otherwise they would have been at BUPU Village the previous afternoon. OMALA Village was again requested to come but we were informed that as they had had a party on the Saturday night there weren't many who felt inclined to make the 1 hour walk to BUPU Village. In the face of this attitude with TOWANGALA having tackled a much more arduous walk it was decided that elections would be carried out so as to allow the TOWANGALA people to return to their village the same day rather than stay another night under very trying conditions - cold, raining and misty - at BUPU Village. All the people were in agreement and two nominations were excepted. Lengo/Gawandong of Towangala Village was elected for the BUPU/OMALA/TOWANGALA Ward. The impression was gained in this particular ward that relationships between the three villages were not as harmonious as they should have been and this maybe be partly the reason for Omala's non-attendance. After completion of Elections walked to the main Lae-War Road where we were picked up by an Administration International Truck and returned to Mumer Station.

Overnight Mumer Station.

- PATROL DIARY -

Monday - 29th June 1970

Spent at Mumeng.

Tuesday - 30th June 1970

Spent at Mumeng.

Wednesday- 1st July 1970

Departed Mumeng per Administration Toyota accompanied by electoral team. Were met by carriers from Lagis and Tokanen Villages on the vehicular road from Mumeng to Vagau. The patrol gear was unloaded and the patrol proceeded on foot to the Rest-House located mid-way between the Villages of LAGIS and TOKANEN. Three nominations were excepted for the LAGIS/TOKANEN Ward and elections were again conducted under very trying conditions being very cold with a light drizzle. Zar/Bandang of Lagis Village was elected.

Overnight at Rest-House at Lagis/Tokanen.

Thursday - 2nd July 1970

The electoral team walked to PAPEKINI Village and three nominations were excepted for the PAPEKINI Ward. Lambok/Kaku of Papekini Village was elected on second preferences.

I then walked to SAGAIYO Village where I had received word from Mr. J.G. Nilan, Assistant Patrol Officer who was at present in that Village with the other electoral team led by Mr. Linzon Banban, Council Administrative Officer, that a dispute had been brought up concerning damage to SAGAIYO gardens by pigs belonging to PAPEKINI Village. Village leaders and pig owners from Papekini Village accompanied myself to SAGAIYO Village where the matter was amicably settled after some spirited discussion with an exchange of money as compensation to the garden-owners. I then returned to MANGA Village while Mr. Linzon Banban's electoral team proceeded back to Mumeng after having completed their patrol schedule.

After arrival at MANGA Village nominations were excepted for the MANGA/BOCUMATU Ward (two candidates) Elections were held with four candidates being nominated. Kapupak/Wapak of Bogumatu Village and Paka/Dasirak of Manga Village were elected. Conditions were again difficult being cold, windy and overcast.

Overnight Manga Village.

Friday - 3rd July 1970

Conditions extremely unfavourable being foggy, cold and raining. It was decided to send the majority of the patrol gear directly down to the Mumeng-Vagau Road to wait for the Administration Toyota that afternoon while the electoral team

- PATROL DIARY -

3/7/70 (Cont.) was to proceed directly to KWASANG Village with only that gear necessary to carry out elections. Still raining we departed MANGA Village and after being held up for an hour at a flooded ~~xxx~~ mountain stream while an axe was fetched from Ebgumatu Village and a couple of trees felled to form a temporary bridge, we finally arrived at KWASANG Village where we waited for the rain to stop. Two nominations were received for the KWASANG Ward and Kawuk/Sangirak was elected. We then departed for the road where we were met by the Administration Toyota from Mumeng and the carriers from Manga who had arrived previously. Returned to Mumeng but were forced to leave the vehicle at PATEP Village after finding that the Snake River had risen considerably since the vehicle had passed it before and it now covered the road for a distance of approximately 200yds with an average depth of 4ft. and in places up to 4ft 6in in depth. The patrol's gear was consequently carried across by villagers and picked up on the other side by another Station vehicle. Returned to Mumeng.

PATROL STOPPED DOWN

... only that...
 ...
 -----OOOOOOOOOO-----
 ...
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 ...

The Council...
 ...
 ...
 ...

There is also...
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 ...

(10)

MUMENG PATROL

NO.7 - 1969/70

SITUATION REPORT

POLITICAL

1. The Administrative Area of the Mumeng Council which coincides with the Mumeng Sub-District boundaries, is divided into thirty (30) Wards, three (3) of which return two (2) Councillors. However, prior to 1967 when the Ward of GUMOTS was included in the Mumeng Council, there were only twenty-nine (29) Wards.

Despite the fact that in the 1968 House of Assembly Elections the representative for the MUNYA Open Electorate turned out to be Mr. Mangobing Kakun of Sambio Village (Middle Watut Census Division) and former President of the Mumeng Local Government Council, it is obvious that the former member for the Mumeng Area, Mr. Tony Voutas M.H.A. who won re-election in the Morobe Regional Electorate in the same elections (ie. 1968) still can command a fair amount of over-riding influence especially in the Buang area of the Mumeng Sub-District.

Dissatisfaction exists generally with their present representative - Mr. Mangobing Kakun - in that he does not take the time to patrol and show his face in the area. It is not that the people expect to see him often, only that he manage at least one visit a year in order to visit them, sit down and talk with them. Seeing that the Mumeng Sub-District is a reasonably compact area and can be patrolled in a relatively short space of time given a determined effort, it is hard to understand the present member's seeming reluctance to do just that. He has not actively sought to create animosity but by his very indifference has and is creating a sizeable opposition, which unless he soon decides to do something, will mean that he will have no chance of being re-elected in the 1972 elections. That is of course if he chooses to stand or will recognize the writing on the wall and decline to stand again.

The Mumeng Council itself is very obvious in its fair proportion of out-spoken and independent members. This is good in itself as long as it doesn't get out of hand and the Council feels that it can dictate to the Administration. The beginnings of such an attitude have already been indicated by the outspoken comments made by several and various of the Council members to and about Council Administrative Officers in the past (District Administration Staff). It is interesting to note that much of this independence of attitude emanates from Villages along the main Lae-Wau Road and from within the Middle Watut area.

There is also no doubt in the writer's mind that a great deal of influence behind the scenes, is wielded by the local Lutheran mission leaders in the area as well as the villages. Much of their opinions and ideas gain expression as political concepts in Council meetings and general discussion groups with Administration Officials from various Departments.

9

Situation Report (Cont.)

The attitude being of course that if we (ie. the Administration) co-operate with the local mission leaders then they will co-operate with us. A fair enough and reasonable attitude of course. However, not when it seems to be the practice that when every new Officer takes over the Station that a deputation usually consisting of the local Pastor (Keramu) and another influential Mission leader in the area, Gedusa approaches that officer and virtually, but subtly, imply that if he steps out of line he will have their active opposition. This impression of course is gained by their remarks combined with a general feeling in the area.

I cannot vouch for the fact whether this has been general practice in the past but it serves as an example to illustrate the powerful hold the Lutheran Mission through its local leaders, has over the area in general. Despite what I have just said, relations with the mission are quite cordial, probably because we have at present not yet stepped 'out of line' either intentionally or unwittingly.....Of course, it is to be hoped that for the situation to remain so depends a great deal on our relationship with the Mission personal both on the Station and in the Villages, a factor that would directly affect the native situation.

This year, the General Elections for the Mumeng Council fell due and two electoral teams were fielded to complete the thirty-wards comprising the Council area. A number of important problems were made apparent both prior to and during the progress of the elections.

For a number of years now, it has been proposed that the Constitution of the Council be changed so that it may become multi-racial. However this move has continued to be deferred until these elections brought out all the problems again. This year was to have been the year when such a change would take place, but opposition was still being experienced mainly from the Mumeng Census Villages which in the main border the main Lae-Wau Road. Their basis for contention was not so much the fact that they did not agree to the introduction of all races into the Council, but more were worried that this step would somehow adversely effect their ward boundaries.

Situation Report (MUMENG PR NO.7 of 69/70)..Cont.

In Regard to Sections on ECONOMIC; SOCIAL and MISCELLANEOUS within this Situation Report, any comments would be extreme generalizations and of no value due to the hurried nature of the Patrol (refer PATROL DIARY) and its prime purpose i.e. Elections.

CONCLUSION: Reference should be made to correspondence 42-2-2 of 10th August 1970 from myself to the Assistant District Commissioner, Mumen g concerning a separate report on these Elections. (A copy is attached to the Original)

Leslie C. Hicks
.....
Leslie C. Hicks
Patrol Officer.

42-2-2

Sub-District Office,
MUMENG

10th August 1970

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
MUMENG

MUMENG LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL -
GENERAL ELECTIONS-1970

As Assistant Returning Officer, and in accordance with instructions contained in the second paragraph of your 67-2-1 of 2nd July 1970, please find below a report of that part of the Elections for which my particular Team was responsible.

2. Following the issue of a writ by the Regional Local Government Officer on 4th June this year, the above Elections were commenced on the 17th June 1970.

Type and Duration of pre-election Campaign:

3.(1) It had been planned previously that this year the Council's Constitution would be changed to allow for the introduction of a multi-racial Council. With this in mind it was decided that a final step in smoothing the way for its introduction, would be visits by the President and a few selected Councillors along with the Member for the Muya Open Electorate in the House of Assembly - Mr. Mungebing HAKUN - to various villages in the Council area, in order to explain the move and answer any final queries. Publicity and information had already been disseminated throughout the area in previous years via Councillors, news media and Administration patrols and little or no opposition was really expected.

At the Council's General meeting in May, it was decided that a request be sent through to the Regional Local Government Officer to have the due date of the Council Elections deferred until a later date, preferably September. This was to give time for the President of the Council and the Member for Muya Open, to circulate through the area, and ALSO to allow time for a careful re-appraisal of present Ward boundaries to counteract the growing dissatisfaction of certain villages with the ward boundaries as they were laid down in the Council's constitution.

It was also agreed at this meeting that the HUANG and MIDDIE WATUT Census Divisions would support the introduction of a multi-racial council provided that in the interests of unity, the MUMENG Census Division also agreed. The latter Census Division remained relatively non-committal on the subject during the General Meeting so a special meeting was called for the ensuing Friday at which representatives from all villages in the Mumeng Census Division were to be present to state clearly their thoughts on the matter.

At this subsequent meeting, at which the Senior Local Government Officer from Lae - Mr. J. Biltris - was also present, the general feeling was found to be overwhelmingly in favour of remaining a mono-racial Council. Supported by the recommendations of the S.L.G.O. this view was endorsed by the Administration and consequently approval that had already been obtained for deferment of the Elections (Multi-Racial) until September was cancelled and the Council was informed that Elections were to commence almost immediately.

Subsequently at the General Meeting in June, the assembled Councillors were informed of the situation and asked to return to their villages in readiness for the Elections which were to be held as before according to the previous ward boundaries as laid down in the Constitution. Any changes in ward boundaries would now have to wait until after the new Council had been properly constituted. A number of villages expressed dissatisfaction with this arrangement (Refer part iv - Incidents)

At the meeting in June, patrol timetables were prepared for the two Electoral teams and individual Councillors were advised of the dates on which elections were to be held in their respective wards. At each polling centre, prior to voting being commenced explanatory talks were given on the aims and purposes of Councils, duties and responsibilities of Councillors and voting procedure. However much is already understood by the majority of the people concerning these subjects and no particular misunderstandings were encountered in this regard.

MANNER OF ELECTIONS:

4.(11) The Election was conducted by two Teams, with Assistant Returning Officers - Mr. Linzon BANBAN, Council Administrative Officer and Mr. L. C. Hicks, Patrol Officer. Of the thirteen wards visited by the latter team, only one (1) Polling place was used for each. Unfortunately due to the adherence to the people's wishes rather than to the Constitution of the Council which has yet to be changed, the case arose where Mr. Linzon Banban's Team in two instances overlooked the fact that they held elections for three wards - BANGALUM; MUMENSTEIN/KUMALU No.1; KUMALU No.2 - where in actual fact the Council's Constitution stipulated there were only two wards - BANGALUM/MUMENSTEIN; KUMALU No.1/KUMALU No.2.

This error has consequently resulted in some confusion within Local Government circles as just what procedure should now be followed to adjust this mistake without causing unnecessary animosity amongst the people directly concerned i.e. the villages of Bangalum, Mumengstein, Kumalu No. 1 and Kumalu No.2. The position had yet to be resolved at the writing of this report. Generally, however it is clear that for thirty of the thirty-three (33) wards, they have legally elected representatives. It only remains for a decision to be made as to whether the thirty (30) existing newly-elected Councillors are sufficient to form a duly-constituted meeting which can then sit and consider changing the Constitution so that the future ward-boundaries are satisfactory to all parties; or is it necessary to hold immediate new elections for the two wards concerned, and thereby have a fully constituted meeting of thirty-three representatives elected as per the Constitution.

The former solution appears to be the most attractive from the point of view that it will be the least annoying to the people concerned who previously were under the impression that they had already elected their representative, and would become confused and perhaps even mistrustful of the Administration and Council if they were told they had to vote again so soon. However the legal situation has yet to be ascertained before progress can be made with either solution.

The prospect of a number of by-elections in a few months time is of course inescapable. Once a duly-constituted meeting finally sits then its first important task will be to discuss how and when the various disputed ward boundaries will be changed.

There were no scrutineers appointed at the actual voting but scrutineers were always present at the counting of the ballot papers. In two cases - PAJAK/GAJAWO and PAPKINI wards - where the voting was close, a count of second preferences was necessitated, which provided an excellent opportunity to explain the reason for preferential voting as well as to clarify in the scrutineer's minds why one candidate could win over another despite the fact that his first preference votes were either very close, or equal to a rival candidate.

The majority of voters required assistance, there being no more than 5 who voted for themselves. It is noticeable that although quite a few are literate they would rather prefer that the polling clerk record their vote under their watchful eye, before placing their vote in the ballot box. All assisted voting was by the "secret whisper" ballot.

FEMINE INTEREST IN ELECTIONS:

5.(iii) Out of a total of 4199 females enrolled as electors, a figure of 2139 or approximately 51% voted. This latter figure also represents approximately 23% of the total persons enrolled as electors. (7,732 males and females). These figures are for the whole Council area covered by the elections and are not restricted only to the area covered by my particular team.

There were no female candidates nominated or standing for election. Attendance was reasonable considering many of the absentees were either pregnant women, aged and infirm, or ill.

INCIDENTS:

6.(iv) To be read in conjunction with para. 3 (1). The only occasion encountered by this Electoral Team regarding disharmony between villages and a dissatisfaction with the present ward boundaries would be with the case of the BUPU/OMIA/TOWANGALA ward. The village of Towangala would more logically be included in the ward of Engabu Village. However this would have to be put to the village leaders concerned.

With the case of OMIA Village, despite adequate notification of our presence in the area viz. BUPU Village, the polling centre for the ward, this village neglected or chose not to attend the elections within their ward. This may be a reflection on the general dissatisfaction within this particular ward with their boundary.

ABSENTEEISM:

7.(v) Census figures from the latest available indicate the high absentee rate in the Mumeng Sub-District which has been a significant feature over the last few years. Separate figures for the three census divisions are:- (Adults)

		MALE	FEMALE
Buang	Census Division	1699	743
Middle Watut	Census Division	631	364
Mumeng	Census Division	857	218
		<u>3187</u>	<u>1325</u>

A break up of absentees within the Morebe District and outside taken from the latest available census figures for the three census divisions are as follows:

	<u>Absentees (adults)</u>			
	<u>Inside</u>		<u>Outside</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Middle Watut	508	330	123	34
Buang	905	525	794	218
Mumeng	671	203	186	15
	<u>2084</u>	<u>1058</u>	<u>1103</u>	<u>267</u>

However the figures as recorded on the Form 10 of the attached Statistics were compiled as follows.

Column 3: These figures on the whole numerate those persons who either paid their local government taxes for last year or were resident in the area for six (6) out of the preceding 12 months.

Column 4: This includes all absentees from the list of those enrolled, either temporary or permanent. Here temporary refers to those at work for the day, sick, etc. but who are normally resident in the village; while permanent refers to those either absent from the District or at larger centres within the District who acknowledge paying their home Council's taxes but reside elsewhere. This figure does not include the large number of absentees who have been resident away from their home area for a very long time and who neither have paid their taxes to the Mumeng Council. The discrepancy between the figures in column 4 on Form 10 from those recorded further above from census figures is explained thus.

ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS:

8.(vi) As has already been mentioned is the significant rate of absentees from the area which represents an important tax-potential which the Council at present is not enjoying. This loss of resources, skills and man-power provides at times a ready source of frustration to Councillors and Council Administration in general.

On the Form 10, the reason why the figures in Column 3 of Page 2 for SANGAS Ward are unusually large considering that the total population is recorded as 397, is because of a large 'squatter' population there who are actually Buang people but because of residency qualifications chose to vote in the Sangas Ward rather than their home areas in the Buang Census Division.

Of those enrolled, figures show that approximately

45% males and 51% females actually voted. It is interesting to note how these figures compare with those from the 1968 House of Assembly Elections for the Munya Open Electorate which also included the Menyanya Sub-District. The figures for the latter were 44.57% males and 51.55% females who actually voted. (Compared with 45.46% males and 50.94% females for the 1970 Mumeng Council Elections)

However it must be kept in mind that the figures quoted for the Mumeng Council Elections do not take into account the two wards of Bangalu/Mumengtein and Kumalu No.1/Kumalu No.2 although it does take into account the number of electors enrolled in these two wards. Therefore it must be remembered that the percentages of 45.46% and 50.94% will be slightly higher when actual voting figures can be obtained from these two wards.

SUMMARY:

9.(vii) Except for the case of OMALA Village who failed to attend the Elections, no incidents of an untoward nature occurred during this particular Team's progress through the Area. There were no undue delays, in fact the progress of the patrol was ahead of schedule and this can be attributed to the readiness of the various villages, with the exception of the Panarabos/Zenag Ward and the Bupu/Towangala/Omala Ward; the competence of the polling team; the co-operation of villages; and the general high standard of fitness of the Electoral Team itself. The latter factor is not to be underestimated when one considers the area covered in as short a time as it was (Refer the Patrol Diary for Mumeng PR No.7 of 1969/70).

Generally, interest shown was no more than average although in the wards of TAIAK/GALAWO and DANBI/DANGAL an atmosphere of competition was very evident between particular candidates. All wards visited by this Electoral Team were contested although in only six (6) out of the thirteen (13) wards visited was there any evidence that the outcome had not been pre-ordained. In these six (6) wards it was obvious that there was some minor village rivalry but that the village or villages who had a minority of electors enrolled were unable to effect the final figure. eg. TAIAK Village, GAUAFU Village, ZENAG Village. In the Bupu/Omala/Towangala Ward, the swing away from the old Councillor was obvious and it would have been interesting to see whether this trend would have continued if Omala Village had also chosen to be present. In the Taiak/Galawo Ward, the challenge to the old Councillor was quite strong and it was obvious that Taiak Village as a whole were disappointed that their candidate didn't win. I feel that had they less absentees perhaps he might have won although it appears that the old Councillor still retains the support of his own Village.

A few of the Councillors expressed the opinion that it was time they had a rest and that perhaps they would try again in 1972 eg. PAPEKINI, YANTA while the Councillor for GUMOTE and PIU/BIENAWA/GAUAFU chose to withdraw as they felt they were spending too much time in travelling to and from Council meetings and on Council business when they would prefer to start concentrating on planting cash-crops.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES NOT PREVIOUSLY A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL: See Appendix.

ELECTED OFFICE BEARERS: Due to the situation described in para. 3.(i) the actual Office bearers have yet to be decided.

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L.C. Hicks

L.C. Hicks
Patrol Officer

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APPENDIX

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES NOT PREVIOUSLY MEMBERS OF
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(1) NESAN BAYAN of Bugai'sau Village. Vagan - Bugai'au Ward. Married with 4 children. Previously Councillor during first elections. Has spent a total of 6 years as domestic in Salamana and Wau as well as 3 years in Rabaul as a Plantation labourer. Before returning to his village because of illness he spent 7 years in the Government bulk-store at Menyamya. He is a Society and Mission leader in his village, owns a trade-store and grows coffee.

(2) BEMBAMUN TOKBUN of Piu Village. Piu - GAUAPU - BIAMENA Ward. Married with 3 children. Elementary mission schooling in village followed by three (3) years Government schooling at Mumeng. Is literate in Pidgin. He was baptised Lutheran - Andreas. Spent 3 years at Nadzab as a tractor - driver, then 2 years contract worker in Rabaul on a plantation followed by a further two years as a tractor-driver at Nadzab. He grows coffee.

(3) LUMBEN/MANGO of Yanta Village. Yanta Ward. Married with one child. Is slightly literate in Pidgin although having only had elementary mission schooling in village. Worked 2 years in Bulolo at the company mess, then 2 years contract on a plantation near Rabaul, followed by another term in Port Moresby No previous official positions. He grows coffee.

(4) LEWAG/MONCE of Sambio Village. Sambio - Polenkwa Ward. Married and is non-literate. Baptised Lutheran - Yermania. After the war worked as a labourer on the main Lae/Wau Road. Then spent 9 years as an orderly in the Bulolo Hospital. Following an operation he returned to his village where he runs a trade-store and grows coffee. No previous official positions.

(5) LENGO/GAWANDONG of Towangala Village. Rupu-Omalatowangala Ward. A young man, married with one child. He is literate in pidgin having spent 8 years at a Lutheran School and also understands a small amount of English. Baptised Lutheran - Gilasia. Has spent 4 years at the Wau Coffee Factory, and now has just started planting coffee himself in the village.

(6) LAGEKUTUKEMENIKI MAXOND/YAKOWANG of Tokansen Village. Lagis/Tokansen Ward. Married with 6 children. Only elementary mission schooling and is only slightly literate in Pidgin. Spent a total of 5 years or more in Lae where he was doing various jobs, from labourer on the Airstrip, working in the D.C.A. Mess to domestic. Baptised Lutheran - Aron. Owns a trade-store and grows coffee.

(7) Iambok/Kaku of Papekini Village. Papekini Ward. Married with 7 children. Was a labourer on the main Lae/Wau road. During the war was a carrier. Baptised Lutheran - Mawaki. Owns a trade-store and grows coffee.

(8) GIRINK/WUSIF of Gumots Village. Gumots Ward. Married with 5 children. Elementary village schooling. Has worked as a labourer (Lae) and gold-miner. Now grows coffee and is a demarcation committee for the village. Baptised - Micah.

(9) PAKA/DASIRAK of Manga Village. Manga - Bogumat Ward. Married with 5 children. Elementary schooling. Spent the war as a child in his village. Worked as a labourer and domestic in Wau for a number of years as well as in the bakery. Joined the Police in 1955 and after 9 years part of which was spent in Manus he left the service. Literate in Pidgin. Baptised Lutheran - Lucas. Up until now was helping the work of the EXM S.I.L. Mission in his village area.

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APPENDIX (Cont.)

(10) KAPUPAK/WAPAK of Bogumatu Village, Manga - Bogumatu Ward. Married with 5 children. Elementary mission schooling. Has worked as a labourer in Wau and domestic in Lae, the latter for 2 years. He then spent 8 years as a lay preacher with the Lutheran Mission in Aseki. He was elected as Councillor for the first Councillor. He is literate and was baptised - Lucas. Prior to these Elections he was a lay preacher in his own village. Has just planted coffee.

(11) Taku/KATOK of Bugwey Village, Bugwey - Turi Ward. Married with 1 child. Spent 5 years behind the hotel-bar in Lae. He then served 10 years in the R.P.N.G.C. in areas such as the Sepik and East New Britain Districts. Baptised Lutheran - Kikarim. Grows coffee.
