

New Zealand High Commission
P.O. Box 1051 Waigani, N.C.D
Papua New Guinea
Fax: (675)3233769, Phone (675)3259444

Fax Message

In Reply Quote:
DATE: 10 SEP 96

TO: DDI
HQNZDF
FAX: 644 4960121

ATTENTION: *sq(2)(a)*

RE: PNG PRESS 10 SEP

Number of pages including cover sheet: 4

Message

withheld s 6(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

PNG force pinned down in rebel assault

PAPUA New Guinea is despatching troop reinforcements to Bougainville as the fate of up to 25 soldiers remained uncertain yesterday, 48 hours after a bloody battle in which rebels claim to have killed 14 PNG troops, captured five and surrounded and wounded the rest.

PNG's Minister of Defence, Mr Mathias Ijape, declined to say yesterday whether the surviving troops were under siege on Kangu Beach in southern Bougainville in what appeared to be the worst clash with rebels forces in the eight-year conflict.

Eight PNG soldiers were killed in early 1992 on the outskirts of Bou-

Mary-Louise O'Callaghan

South Pacific correspondent



gainville's former provincial capital, Arawa, but yesterday Mr Ijape confirmed that radio contact had not been re-established with 25 men who had been holed up in a World War II Japanese bunker before the attack occurred late on Sunday night.

"At this stage, I can't tell you exactly how many soldiers have been killed, how many have been wounded," he told a news conference

in Port Moresby yesterday. Bougainville Revolutionary Army sources claimed last night to have already repelled reinforcements, including some trying to land in one of the Australian-donated patrol boats.

Rebels sources, speaking by radio from the island, claimed to be holding five members of the PNG security forces who they named as hostages. The remaining troops who had left the bunker and dug themselves into the beach were also surrounded by BRA militants, the sources said.

They also confirmed that the attack had been led by the BRA commander of the Southern Region, Mr Paul Bobby, in the biggest offensive by the rebels since they repelled PNG troops from the former inter-

national airport in Aropa in July.

The defeat at Aropa had effectively brought the PNG Defence Force's Operation Highspeed II, which had been aimed at flushing out the rebel leadership, to a halt.

However, Mr Ijape vowed yesterday to retake Kangu Beach.

He said radio contact had been maintained with seven members of the battalion who were on a hillside overlooking the beach.

"The latest contact we have from our boys (is from) a group of seven soldiers still alive on the hilltop that we normally have them on. Up to this day, we are still fighting," he said.

The Premier of Bougainville, Mr Theodore Miriung, has also been placed under military surveillance in

response to the attack. Asked why the PNGDF was focusing on Mr Miriung, a former legal adviser to the BRA, who has been working with the Government's peace efforts since 1992, the minister said: "From our own information that we have, he is believed to have incited this activities at Kangu Beach.

"I will be recommending to the Prime Minister that we will have him removed as premier."

Mr Ijape also received a petition from the families of the men in the missing battalion, asking for the defence force to be better equipped, for them to be withdrawn from Bougainville and for a non-military solution to the eight-year conflict.

Unconfirmed reports from the

island said that about 300 people staying at the Government's care-centre at Kangu had fled into the bush after the attack.

In a statement released overnight, the PNG Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, condemned the attack and accused the rebels of trying to sabotage his Government's efforts to solve the crisis.

"This barbaric act is not only a major setback on progress achieved to date, but also aimed at sabotaging ongoing genuine efforts by both sides in resolving the Bougainville crisis," he said.

Sir Julius said that the deaths would not "budge" the Government from its aim of resolving the Bougainville crisis. "We will deploy every possible means."

s 9 (2) (g) (ci)

NATION



157 days in our wrooom as we put gether tomorrow's extra-tional 21st Independence anniversary supplement. mand will be heavy for bumper issue, so buy early. And if we may ske a suggestion, think out subscribing to The onal. If you're in Port resby, our trusty xorbikes will deliver to ur door each morning so u can read the news over sakfest. Phone Rachel on 4 5828 for details.

ANTASTIC response to r I Love PNG school art mpetition, with some 600 tries. The five judges ve managed to decide the rners and runners-up in ch category; the quality the entries showed just w artistic our kids can be. o particularly liked the ining of various PNG inimals and birds with a mused-looking python in ; centre saying "Am I ique?" The cream of the p will be featured tomorrow.

JIZ time once again: We nted to know who was IG's only woman smier to date. Enny oaitz is the answer, and a province was Morobe. nly three women have so r been elected to the itional Parliament - ame Josephine Abajiah, alayata Clowes, and ihau Rooney. There are gns that 1997 may be the ar when women will ce again appear in the k Haus; since they form ; per cent of the overall pulation of the country, ir presence and contribu- on to Parliament is vital.

FARLIGHT Starbright. e collection of excerpts om smash hit musicals dicated by Frederick zorske, is going to be furry International's ost successful dramatic uduction so far, if the apewine is correct. Now is is a real event for the ti-hermititis orpebyensis brigade; see d hear live scenes from ig River, Cats, Chess, odspell, The King and I, d three or four other nash hits; food and drinks ailable throughout, in the easton grounds of the hood; Thursday to ursday 26th to 28th of ptember - gates open at 30pm, and there's top curity and parking. Book day: Ring 3252833.

ND finally, our brain aser for tomorrow: British a captain John Moresby xl survived our capital's ouble 123 years ago. Ho med the two parts of the urbour "Moresby" and "airfax" - but but after nself. Who do the names mmemorate?

- Dee Nesenoids

Genia blames Australia for Bougainville crisis

By FRANK SENGÉ
KOLMA
PORT MORESBY: Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Kilroy Genia yesterday said arms and ammunition used by Bougainville rebels bore Australian marks and blamed that country for the Bougainville problem.

The minister's comments set a sour tone to the annual ministerial talks which commence today in the South Australian capital, Adelaide.

Speaking from Cairns, Mr Genia also strongly rebuked Australian officials for trying to set Bougainville as the main agenda for discussions during the ministerial forum.

Mr Genia said: "The Bougainville problem is largely an Australian created problem. No Papua New Guinea Government has ever linked or blamed the Bougainville crisis on past or present Australian governments but it is time to take stock of some of those issues to put Australians and others, especially Pacific islanders in perspective on Australia's role in the creation of the Bougainville crisis."

"Even the hardware and ammunition used by the rebels bear markings of Australian origin."

"It is anyone's guess as to where these come from and what role Australian industry and suppliers have in supplying these arms illegally, es-

Downer to push for peace talks

PORT MORESBY: Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer yesterday reiterated the Australian Government's desire for a non-military solution to the Bougainville conflict.

Mr Downer will head the Australian delegation at the two-day PNG-Australia ministerial meeting starting today

in Adelaide. Australia is expected to reinforce its offer to host peace talks between the PNG Government and the secessionist rebels.

Australia will also raise the issue of aid distribution on Bougainville, government officials said.

The government would look

to greater use of aid bodies such as the Red Cross to help ensure funds could be used effectively on the island, especially in PNG-run care centres.

Australia has provided \$8 million for infrastructure programs on Bougainville so far, but has another \$16 million available.

Australia is also expected to

discuss the implications of the possible cancellation of the second tranche of a \$25 million World Bank loan to PNG which is in doubt because of controversial new logging laws.

Cancellation of the loan could threaten the remainder of a \$455 million rescue package brokered by the World Bank.

pecially across the Solomon Islands border," he said.

"Australia must know that while the Bougainville situation remains a priority as a national activity for the Papua New Guinea Government, our relations with Australia is more than just Bougainville."

"It encompasses trade, aid, technical, cultural, people-to-people and institutional exchanges, as well as Torres Strait border administration," Mr Genia said.

"We do appreciate Australian past and offer of future assistance towards the resolution of the Bougainville crisis and the accompanying restoration program in the province."

"However, it appears to be a force and strange for PNG that while Papua New Guinean soldiers, policemen and innocent citizens are dying at the hands of unprovoked acts of violence and killing by the rebels, Australia sees it fit to talk about facilitat-

ing a peace conference," Mr Genia said.

Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan, also known for telling Australians off, was less confrontational yesterday.

He said the forum is an important consultative mechanism provided for under the 1987 Joint Declaration of Principles (JDP) between PNG and Australia.

"This is our single most important annual bilateral ministerial meeting in respect of all of Papua New Guinea's relationships with foreign governments and organisations," Sir Julius said.

He said: "It is a forum to review issues affecting the conduct of ongoing aspects of the relations with our close neighbour and 'best friend', as well as to examine new options for cooperation between the two countries."

"As in the past, this year's forum will involve senior PNG and Australian government ministers who will discuss issues of mutual in-

Rescue force lands in Kangu

From Page One information on the casualties.

Earlier, rebel spokesman Moses Havini said intercepted army intelligence reports indicated that a patrol boat with reinforcements had failed to reach the beach because of heavy gunfire.

In Australia, Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer said yesterday the latest

killings highlighted the need for a peaceful settlement to the secessionist crisis.

"It is clearly a tragic incident, and it underlines the need for there to be a peaceful settlement on Bougainville," Mr Downer told reporters in Canberra.

"We are obviously deeply concerned about reports of a number of Papua New Guinean soldiers apparently

having lost their lives in the conflict.

Enroute to Adelaide for the annual ministerial forum, Mr Downer's PNG counterpart Kilroy Genia accused Australian firms and industry of supplying arms and ammunition to rebels and blamed that country for the Bougainville crisis.

Where's the evidence? Page 16

Forum to discuss budget

PORT MORESBY: The National Economic Development Forum begins here today to develop strategies for the 1997 budget.

Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department and the NEC Noel Levi said the theme of the forum is: "The 1997 Budget."

Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan will

open the forum, while Minister for Provincial Affairs and Local Level Governments Peter Borer is scheduled to deliver the keynote address.

The panel discussions will continue after lunch until about 2.30pm when Minister for Industrial Relations Samson Napo is due to close the meeting.

I'VE JUST FINISHED MY SHIFT.

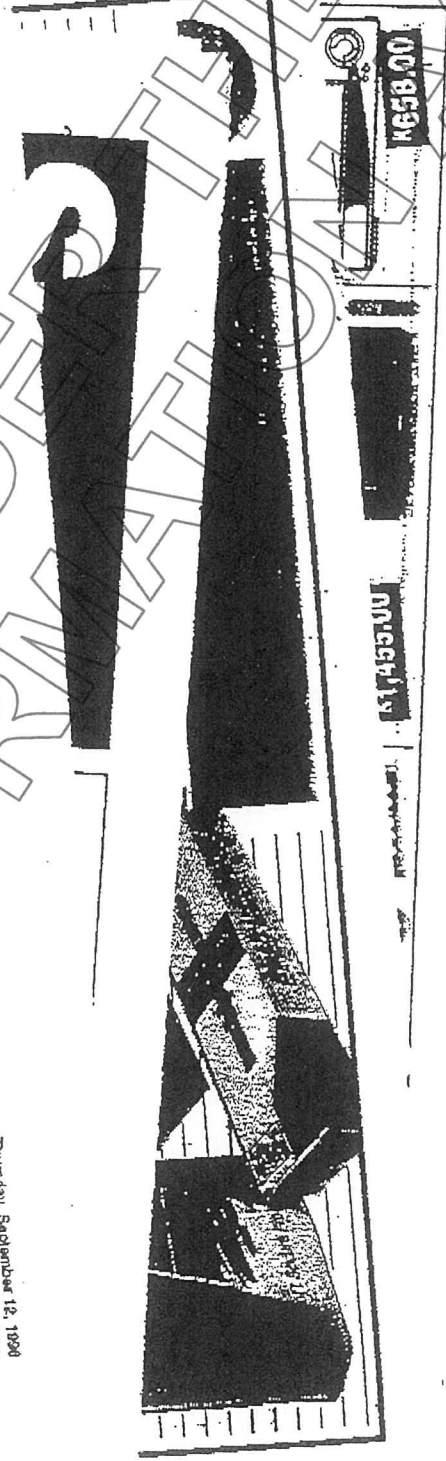
DO YOU KNOW OVER 13,000 PAPUA NEW GUINEANS WORK IN THE TIMBER INDUSTRY?

YES, AND ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT WORK IN COMPANIES SUPPORTING THE TIMBER INDUSTRY!

THOSE JOBS MEAN A LOT TO OUR COUNTRY!

P.N.G. F.I.A.

FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION
SUPPORTS SUSTAINED
FOREST INDUSTRY FOR PNG



00:959V

00:954:V

LETTERS & OPINION

Thursday, September 12, 1996

16/The National

NATIONAL

TYPIE VE Papua New Guinea soldiers are dead and more than that number are unaccounted for in a major battle on Bougainville, the details of which are still sketchily a full five days later.

Yet, like ash, the Defence Force hierarchy knows the person responsible for what is now a bloody massacre.

Defence Minister Mathias Ijape on Tuesday Transitional Bougainville Premier Theodore Mikting as being the person responsible.

Mr Mikting is under house arrest and barred from travelling to Bougainville mainland.

Where is the evidence, Mr Ijape?

Why was he not identified and put away before he caused any harm? It would appear to us that the Defence Force needed a scapegoat for the embarrassing turn of events of last weekend and of the failure of Operation High Speed 1 and II.

Its choice of a scapegoat is ideal really and quite harmless. Theodore Mikting is the man in the middle, neither liked nor reviled by the security forces or the Bougainville rebels.

To the security force members, Mr Mikting is the former judge turned rebel adviser and presenter. They only have his say so that he does not believe in the extreme po-

sition adopted by the rebels. The security forces suspect he is still very much a rebel, planned in the Government's midst to sabotage any chance of a return to normalcy from within.

To the rebels, he is a turn-coat, a former comrade who has swung all the way to join the enemy. He is to be terminated.

Either way, Mikting is held with suspicion at best and at worst there is a prize on his head.

The entire Bougainville crisis is a reckless and being waged against the Constitution and people of Papua New Guinea. The Constitution itself directs that perpetrators any such acts must be

by the reason given for a vicious character assassination and defamation that beggars description.

In so doing, the Minister has caused the life of Mr Mikting under threat from angry soldiers and from angry relatives of those who have been killed.

PNIG is horrified by the killing of 12 soldiers in one engagement. We take note of Commander Jedy Singirok's concern that his soldiers are unnecessarily risking their lives by guarding care centres.

Many other strategies on Bougainville need rethinking but that needs careful reasoning, not emotional reactions of the kind we have seen the Minister exhibit as of late. He has threatened the Solomon Islands with violence. He would have us believe few commander heads of dangerous weapons were being transported to Bougainville via the Solomon Islands.

Now, a man in the middle of a chaotic situation, trying to perform an unenviable task with little resources is condemned on the basis of hearsay.

On the basis of the flimsy, ahistorical "evidence" announced by Mr Ijape, we can only conclude that the Minister is the one guilty of heaping ill-will against Mr Mikting, not Mr Mikting heaping the massacre of a platoon?

WELL BOYS! YOU'LL



309/4/15

~~DK~~
[Handwritten initials]

NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION

PORT MORESBY
TE AKA AORERE

FILE NO: 82/1/8

F A C S I M I L E M E S S A G E

DATE: 10 SEPTEMBER 1996

TO: WELLINGTON

PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

FROM: PORT MORESBY

FAX NO: SD

MFAT: SPA, EAB

PAGE 1 OF: 3

SUBJ: PNG: BOUGAINVILLE

Attached for your information is a copy of the report which appeared in this morning's "Post-Courier" of a major incident on Bougainville over the weekend. Also attached is a copy of Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan's press statement as received today.

withheld - s 6(a)
s 6(b)(i)
s 9(2)(g)(i)

RELEASING OFFICIAL INFORMATION

BRA 'ambush' kills 12 soldiers — PM

Post-Courier 10/9/96

TWELVE soldiers are believed to have been killed in a clash with rebel forces at the southern tip of mainland Bougainville on Sunday.

BRA sources claimed also that four other soldiers were captured and eight injured.

Defence Force officers last night had not confirmed the report, but Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan during the evening expressed "grave shock and condemnation" on the reported killings.

If the reports are proven to be right, the deaths would constitute the single largest disaster encountered by the PNG government forces in the nearly eight-year-old conflict.

Sir Julius Chan said that after NEC deliberations on the Bougainville issue in Vanimo yesterday afternoon, he had told Defence Minister Mathias Ijape to return to Port Moresby to take control of the situation.

"This barbaric act is not only a major setback on progress achieved to date, but also aimed at sabotaging ongoing genuine efforts by both sides in resolving the Bougainville issue," he said.

"The Government has done everything possible to restore normalcy on Bougainville, however with this kind of treatment by the BRA, our initiatives and commitment for peace are once more being jeopardised.

"The Government will not however budge on the objectives which we have set. We are committed to resolving the Bougainville crisis and will deploy every possible means."

Earlier, the Post-Courier was told that a policeman was missing

and a resistance fighter was seriously wounded when accidentally shot by comrades during the early hours of yesterday at Kangu beach.

The resistance fighter was flown out of Buka to Rabaul's Nonga Base hospital in an emergency flight by Airlink yesterday morning.

Kangu beach is the same spot where the action reportedly resulting in 12 soldiers' deaths happened. Attempts to clarify both reports and to establish if they were separate actions were met by an information brick wall.

Defence Force chief of staff Colonel Jack Tuat told the AAP news agency that there had been fighting at the beach, but could not confirm if there had been deaths or injuries.

BRA spokesman Moses Havini, in Sydney, said the 12 soldiers were killed at Kangu beach on Sunday after pitched battles with the rebels over some days.

The other shooting incident occurred around 4am yesterday. A source said it appeared the accident happened due to lack of communication between those on the ground and those on two boats coming into the beach.

Those shot were the ones who were arriving by boat, he said. The source said basically, those on the beach were having an argument among themselves and tension was flying when eight unsuspecting members of the force including resistance fighters, police and soldiers, were making their approach to the beach by two motor powered boats.

More on Bougainville, Page 2

11/02 '18 17:36

001

NEW ZEALAND
HIGH COMMISSION
RECEIVED
10 SEP 1996

32/1/8

MEDIA STATEMENT

9 September 1996

Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, has expressed grave shock and condemnation upon receiving information on the reported killing of 12 soldiers at Kangu Care Centre in South Bougainville.

The soldiers were ambushed by the BRA and its sympathisers yesterday afternoon.

Sir Julius said that following the National Executive Council deliberations on the Bougainville issue in Vanimo this afternoon, he has directed the Minister for Defence, Mathias Ijape, to return to Port Moresby to take control of the situation.

"This barbaric act is not only a major setback on progress achieved to date, but also aimed at sabotaging ongoing genuine efforts by both sides in resolving the Bougainville issue."

"The Government has done everything possible to restore normalcy on Bougainville, however, with this kind of treatment by the BRA, our initiatives and commitment for peace are once more being jeopardised," Sir Julius said.

The Government will not however budge on the on the objectives which we have set. We are committed to resolving the Bougainville crisis and will deploy every possible means to resolve the situation.

Julius Chan
Prime Minister

Neil

File
30/11/15 P1

PACNEWS - The Pacific News Service
Port Vila, Vanuatu, Tel (+678) 26300, Fax 26301, e-mail pacnews@vanuatu.com.vu

FIRST EDITION Mon Nov 4 09:52 1996

1/2

+ PNG - INQUEST :National

:PACNEWS 1: Mon Nov 4 09:51 1996 28 READY

Sri Lankan judge to head probe

PORT MORESBY (PNS)--Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, announced Sunday that a retired Sri Lankan judge will head the inquest into the assassination of Bougainville Premier Theodore Miriung. Chan said into the cabinet, the National Executive Council, had accepted the Commonwealth Secretariat's appointment of judge Thirunavukkarasu Suntheralingam, the National reports.

Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Eneka Anyaoku telephone Chan Saturday night about the appointment to finalise arrangements for the judge to be in Papua New Guinea by November 11. Sir Julius said Suntheralingam is an experienced judge, with over 19 years of service at all levels up to the High Court in Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister said that since 1988 the judge had also served as a member of the Finance Commission and was chairman of the Sri Lankan Presidential Commission of Inquiry into persons missing in the conflict there. Sir Julius said that the Miriung Inquest had clear and unambiguous aim, which is to arrive at the full truth behind the murder of Premier Miriung.

He said the inquest is to conduct a full investigation and establish the identity of the persons the brutal murder. He said he was most pleased that the Commonwealth Secretary General had responded so quickly to his government's request for assistance....Pacnews

+ SOL - LIVESTOCK :SIBC

:PACNEWS 1: Mon Nov 4 09:20 1996 16 REA

Solomons to import cattle from Australia

HONIARA (PNS)--Solomon Islands Livestock Corporation is to import six thousand pregnant heifers from Australia. Managing Director of the company Warren Tucker says the heifers will be used to boost the cattle herds in Solomon Islands, which is now at its lowest, SIBC reports. The radio says previously the country had bred more than 35-thousand herd of cattle, but a recent collapse of the industry saw the number drop to 2,000. Tucker says the company is importing beef, poultry and pork from Australia to meet the shortfall being experienced in the country. He says Solomon Islands Livestock Corporation also aims to develop more poultry and piggery farms to supply the local market....Pacnews

+ PNG - EVICTIONS :NBC/PNG

:PACNEWS 1: Mon Nov 4 09:27 1996 16 REA

Illegal squatters face eviction

PORT MORESBY (PNS)--Papua New Guinea's Rabaul Town Authority is to resume its eviction of illegal squatters and those living in defective and abandoned houses in the town. The eviction exercise to start on November 11 will include the removal of people living in houses without proper water supply and authority of the owners, NBC reports. Acting town manager Ephraim Wartovo says all the people in the town were issued eviction notices early last month while those living in houses without proper water supply have been warned to organise installation of water supply. Wartovo says the exercise will be carried out by health and rules inspectors with the help of police....Pacnews

Your File:

Our File: 82/1/8

309/4/15

12:49 700/PMY/...../..... \$99.82

FROM: PORT MORESBY U02388 04 Nov 1996

TO: WELLINGTON ROUTINE

CC: CANBERRA DEFENCE ROUTINE
 HONIARA LONDON ROUTINE
 NEW YORK ROUTINE

MFAT (SPA, AUS, EAB, HRU, UNC, LGL, DSP1)

P/S MFA
 PMC (FPA)
 DEFENCE HQNZDF (DDI, SPA)
 DEFENCE MOD

[Handwritten signature]
 DK O/R

PNG: BOUGAINVILLE: MIRIUNG INQUIRY

Our fax 82/1/8 of 24 October (not to all).

2 Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan announced on Sunday that a retired Sri Lankan Judge, Thirunavukkarasu Suntheralingam, had been nominated by the Commonwealth Secretary General to head the "coronial inquest" into the assassination of BTG Premier Theodore Miriung.

3 Judge Suntheralingam, who chaired a Sri Lankan Presidential Commission of Inquiry into involuntary removals and disappearances of persons, is scheduled to arrive in PNG on 11 November. The Commonwealth Secretariat will be meeting all costs for the Judge's services, with PNG responsible for all internal costs associated with the inquest.

4 The Prime Minister said that the Miriung inquiry had "clear and unambiguous aims - to arrive at the full truth behind the murder of Premier Miriung. It is to conduct a full investigation and establish the identity of the persons behind this brutal murder". Chan's statement concluded: "I am determined that the full facts behind the murder are established with strict impartiality - the Commonwealth is assisting us in seeing that this will be done".

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1

RELEASABLE INFORMATION ACT
 OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION

PORT MORESBY
TE AKA AORERE

FILE NO: 82/1/8

Handwritten signatures and initials
30/4/15

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

DATE: 25 OCTOBER 1996

TO: WELLINGTON

PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

FROM: PORT MORESBY

FAX NO: SD 1

MFAT: SPA, EAB, DSP1

PAGE 1 OF: 3

OTHER AGENCIES:

ACTION COPY

SUBJ: PNG: BOUGAINVILLE: KANGU BEACH KILLINGS

Our C02138 (para 6) refers.

2 Attached for your information are copies of the reporting in today's newspapers concerning the outcome of the PNGDF's investigations into the 8 September killings at Kangu Beach in Bougainville.

*Withheld - s 6 (a)
s 6 (b) (i)
s 9 (2) (g) (i)*

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Kangu blamed on indiscipline

National 25/10/95 B

PM calls massacre probe findings tragic

By KEVIN PAMBA
PORT MORESBY: A serious breakdown in security, discipline and morale triggered the massacre of nine soldiers at Kangu Care Centre in Bougainville last month.

A Defence Force investigation revealed that the breakdown led to friction between resistance fighters and the soldiers, resulting in the massacre on Sept 8.

The findings are tragic, Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan said yesterday.

Sir Julius who announced the findings of the investigation said "I take no pleasure in announcing the results of the investigations."

They provide an adverse assessment of the force's chain of command and highlight several difficulties of discipline and unacceptable behaviour among many of those bearing the responsibility for the conduct of our operations on Bougainville. Defence Minister Mathias Ijope said commanding officers on the troubled island would find action if there was evidence of negligence.

The report revealed that there was evidence of drug abuse among soldiers and heavy consumption of home-brewed alcohol.

See Page 2

Indiscipline led to massacre

From Page One

The report said that on the day of the massacre many soldiers were drunk or asleep while others were playing volleyball with residents of the Kangu Care Centre.

It also alleged that fraternisation with local women had caused considerable friction with resistance force members and the care centre personnel.

Sir Julius said during the incident, many of the soldiers' weapons were "carried" by resistance fighters who later acquired "all the weapons". He said the killing had

started with the shooting of D Company officer-in-charge Major Paul Panato as he slept by a senior resistance force member and was the signal for the general slaughter to start.

He said: "The soldiers tried to retaliate but their weapons at this stage were in the hand of resistance fighters who gunned them down. Some bodies of those soldiers were later buried in a gruesome manner."

Sir Julius said large quantities of weapons, equipment and stores were captured by the resistance force and the rebels. "There would appear to

be a collaboration between the rebels and the resistance force in the Kangu massacre," he said.

"However, it would be unwise not to acknowledge that there has been extreme provocation on the part of security force personnel and serious breakdown in disciplinary control from top to bottom. Personal behaviour felt too much to be desired."

"The report has made several recommendations and these will be quickly assessed. Investigations will continue and their results will be made available to the public soon."

Independent probe into Miriung death

PORT MORESBY: A magistrate from a Commonwealth country will head an independent coroner's inquest to look into the circumstances surrounding the killing of Bougainville Premier Theodore Miriung.

Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan said yesterday he has written to the Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku requesting his assistance in locating a suitable person to preside over the inquiry.

Funding for the magistrate and his or her support staff will be met by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

"It is essential that there be no doubt about the impartiality and objectivity of the inquiry into the death of this very distinguished and outstanding man," he said.

"Further details will be made available, once the arrangements with the Commonwealth Secretariat has been finalised."

OFFICIAL RELEASE



309/4/15

ACTION COPY

NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION

**PORT MORESBY
TE AKA AORERE**

FILE NO: 82/1/8

[Handwritten signature]
5

F A C S I M I L E M E S S A G E

DATE: 24 OCTOBER 1996

TO: WELLINGTON

PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY

FROM: PORT MORESBY

FAX NO: SD 1

MFAT: SPA, LGL, DSP1, DSP3

PAGE 1 OF: 2

OTHER AGENCIES: PMC (FPA), P/S MFA

PNG: BOUGAINVILLE: MIRJUNG DEATH INQUIRY

Attached for your information are copies of the reports which appeared in today's daily newspapers concerning the proposed judicial inquiry into the assassination of BTG Premier Theodore Miringu.

59(2)(a)

**RELEASABLE INFORMATION
OFFICIAL INFORMATION**

PM set to announce judicial probe today

By HENZY YAKHAM
PORT MORESBY:

Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan is expected to announce today the appointment of an independent judicial inquiry into the assassination of Bougainville Transitional Government Premier Theodore Miriung.

The expected move, which has already been welcomed in anticipation by Bougainville rebels, has the support of the Cabinet.

Melbourne-based

IRITING ASSASSINATION

rebel spokesman Moses Havini last week said such a body appointed by the Government will be fully supported by the rebels and it will bring to justice those responsible.

Mr Havini acknowledged that Mr Miriung's death was a setback to the peace process aimed at solving the eight-year-old bloody conflict on Bougainville.

Mr Miriung was assassinated by unidentified gunmen on Oct 12 while he was having dinner with his family at his wife's village at Konga, 30km northwest of Buin in South Bougainville.

He travelled there on an unscheduled visit with South-West Interim Authority Chairman Nick Penia and another authority member on a civilian helicopter.

Last week, Provincial and Local Government Affairs Minister Peter Barter recommended to Sir Julius that Deputy Chief Justice Sir Mari Kapi head a judicial inquiry into the killing of Mr Miriung.

Mr Barter said an independent inquiry was needed to establish who was responsible for the killing because it was in the interest of all parties involved in the Bougainville crisis.

The PNG Defence

Force, which has denied any involvement in the killing, has urged its political head Defence Minister Mathias Ijape to welcome such a query.

The force noted there was much fine pointing and accusation and an independent inquiry would set records straight.

The army is understood to have told Government that would help the judge his investigation.

Judge to head Miriung inquiry

By NEVILLE TOGAREWA

PRIME Minister Sir Julius Chan will today appoint Deputy Chief Justice Sir Mari Kapi or another judge to head a judicial/coronial inquest into the slaying of Bougainville Premier Theodore Miriung.

He will announce the appointment this afternoon, after the National Executive Council yesterday approved his submission recommending a coronial inquiry.

Sir Julius will also announce the findings of an internal Defence Force probe into the massacre by BRA rebels at Kangu beach on September 8 which left 11 soldiers dead.

"The Prime Minister wants answers and he thought the best way to get those answers would be through a judicial/coronial inquest, as opposed to a commission of inquiry," a spokesman said. "The latter would have been too cumbersome and taken far too long."

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Mathias Ijape has welcomed Cabinet's decision. "There has been too much pointing of fingers by various interest groups regarding the killing," he said. The Minister said Defence chiefs had assured him the force's "hands are clean".

"The Defence Force will be too willing to cooperate with the judge in his investigation and the commander has been advised accordingly."

PNGDF commander Jerry Singirok has denied BRA claims that his troops were involved. He said last Wednesday that the nearest army post in the area was eight kilometres away from the place where the incident happened. He had directed his men, before the killing, not to go outside their base premises.

The commander directed a senior officer on September 19 to head a full-scale internal investigation into the killings on Kangu beach. He told the *Post-Courier* then that so long as he was commander, he would ensure there was transparency in what the army did.

RELEASED OFFICIAL INFORMATION



309/4/15

NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600
AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: (06) 270 4211
FACSIMILE: (06) 273 3194

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

CLASS: Unclassified FILE NO: 37/29/1

DATE: 18 October 1996 NO OF PAGES: 1 (s 9(2)(a))

FROM: Canberra APPROVED BY: ren/m

TO: WELLINGTON 0905 PRECEDENCE: Priority

CC: Port Moresby

LD: MFAT (SPA, DEV, DP2, DSP1, EAB)

P/S MFA

SUBJECT: PNG: BOUGAINVILLE: MIRIUNG

We attach for your information further newspaper commentary, now linking Miriung's assassination to the PNGDF.

PNG forces linked to killing of premier

By CRAIG SKEHAN
Foreign Affairs Correspondent
Witnesses have implicated Papua New Guinea Defence Force soldiers in the weekend assassination of the Premier of Bougainville's transitional government, the PNG's Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, has been told in a confidential report.

It says the witnesses had seen junior defence force personnel leaving the scene of the shooting of Theodore Miriung, according to senior official sources.

An investigator told the *Herald* that evidence suggested that a member of the pro-PNG Government "Resistance" militia - which is opposed to secessionist Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) guerillas - fired the M-16 rifle which killed Mr Miriung.

However, sources confirmed that a vehicle, which in recent months has been used by the Defence Force, was seen leaving the area of Mr Miriung's village immediately after the killing.

The latest development follows tensions between PNG and the Australian Government over the use in hostilities of helicopters provided under the Australia's aid program which were not supposed to have a combat role.

The PNG Government, a major recipient of Australian military aid, will now be under pressure to show there was no high-level military involvement in Mr Miriung's killing.

On Sunday, Sir Julius described the Saturday night assassination in Mr Miriung's southern Bougainville village of Kapana as an "act of madness perpetrated by ungodly cowards".

The BRA emphatically denied a claim by the PNG Defence Force that it was responsible.

Mr Miriung was a former BRA sympathiser who had enemies, as well as supporters, on both sides of the Bougainville conflict after agreeing to head the transitional administration backed by the national government. Many saw him as the providing the best hope of securing peace negotiations.

The commander of the BRA, Sam Kauona, in a radio message yesterday, named a man belonging to the Resistance who, he said, was responsible for the shooting and also a Defence Force corporal who witnesses saw at the scene.

BRA sources said a person associated with the Resistance militia with knowledge of the assassination had defected and was now being protected by BRA forces.

Investigators have recommended that Defence Force personnel be removed from the area of Kapana and replaced by police. There were fears that witnesses might be intimidated or even killed.

The PNG Minister responsible for provincial and local government, Mr Peter Barter, said last night there would be "no cover-up" of what had occurred.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600
AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: (06) 270 4211
FACSIMILE: (06) 273 3194

ACTION COPY

309/4/15

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

CLASS: Unclassified **FILE NO:** 37/29/1 s 9(2)(a)

DATE: 16 October 1996 **NO OF PAGES:** 4

FROM: Canberra **APPROVED BY:** ren/

TO: WELLINGTON **0903** **PRECEDENCE:** Routine

CC: Port Moresby

LD: MFAT (SPA, DEV, DP2, DSP1, EAB)

P/S MFA

SUBJECT: PNG: BOUGAINVILLE: MIRIUNG

We attach for your information further newspaper commentary, together with the Hansard text of Mr Downer's statement in the House on 14 October.

REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, 14 October 1996

Bougainville

Mr TAYLOR—My question is addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. What is the government's response to the assassination of the Premier of Bougainville, Theodore Miriung, over the weekend? What possible implications will Mr Miriung's death have for the peaceful resolution of the Bougainville crisis?

Mr DOWNER—I thank the honourable member for Groom for his question. I know that he has a deep and abiding interest in many of these issues. The government was shocked and saddened at the assassination of Theodore Miriung on 12 October. He was assassinated, we understand, in the southern part of Bougainville. We send our deepest condolences to his family and, of course, to the people of Papua New Guinea.

The Australian government condemns in the strongest possible terms this latest unconscionable act of violence on Bougainville. Mr Miriung was a man of compassion and of humanity, as many in this House would know, who was committed to the pursuit of a peaceful resolution of the eight-year-old conflict on Bougainville. With the loss of this courageous and influential figure, peace on Bougainville will regrettably become all the more difficult to achieve. Indeed, we hope that this death will not lead to further violence.

Mr Miriung was last in Australia for the two rounds of Bougainville peace talks which were held in Cairns at the end of last year. He played an important role in the progress that was made in those meetings. The most fitting memorial to Theodore Miriung would be an early end to the Bougainville conflict and a lasting peace on that unfortunate island. The Australian government stands ready to play its part in helping Papua New Guinea to bring this about, including through an increased focus on Bougainville in our aid programs. As I said, we deeply regret the death of Theodore Miriung. We will continue to do all we can to assist with the peace process in Bougainville.

RELEASED UNDER INFORMATION ACT

16/10
 The Sydney Morning Herald

Martyred for Bougainville

THE exceptional stature, moral and intellectual, of Theodore Miriung means his assassination could become a turning point in what has so far seemed a hopeless quest for peace in Bougainville. That possibility depends, however, on several more or less unlikely things occurring. First and foremost, Mr Miriung's killers must be identified and punished. However obvious that might seem, it is not a simple matter.

It is not even known from which of the contending forces in Bougainville the killers come. The most obvious and likely is one of the groups in the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. Mr Miriung, a former Catholic seminarian and acting judge, was once a legal adviser to the rebels. Diehards among them saw him as a traitor when he accepted the position of interim premier of Bougainville early last year. By that move, he turned his back on the BRA's program of fighting for independence through armed struggle. He accepted, as many Bougainvilleans now do, the inevitability of remaining within PNG while working to achieve a special relationship which would provide a substantial measure of autonomy, especially for the traditional chiefs at the local level.

Another reason for thinking Mr Miriung's killers are probably Bougainvilleans is the chilling similarity between his death and that of John Bika in September 1989. Mr Bika was minister for commerce in the Bougainville provincial government. Like Mr Miriung, he was murdered at home in the presence of his family, at a time when he was working for a negotiated settlement to the Bougainville conflict.

Despite these suspicions, there has also been speculation that elements of the PNG Defence Force might have killed Mr Miriung. Mr Miriung had spoken out against misbehaviour by some PNGDF personnel at "care centres" established by the PNG Government for villagers displaced by the PNGDF's failed attempt to clean out the rebels from their stronghold in southern Bougainville. According to the rebels, he also angered the PNGDF by persuading some Bougainvilleans who had been fighting on the PNGDF's side to turn against it. The rebels say his murder was a PNGDF payback.

The PNG Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, who has condemned Mr Miriung's murder as "an act of madness, perpetrated by ungodly cowards", has vowed to bring the culprits to justice. If they are in the PNGDF, that will not be easy. And because the plausible suggestion of PNGDF complicity has been made, it is essential that Bougainvillean elements should not be accused without the clearest evidence, and not just on suspicion.

Regardless of who killed Mr Miriung, his death should remind both sides in this conflict that a new approach is required. The Bougainvillean side must see the futility of armed struggle for independence. Port Moresby must see the need for quicker action to concede real autonomy. The most troubling thought in many people's minds, though, will be that both these conditions are already accepted by the ablest people on both sides, and that the problem is that events are too much in the hands of indisciplined elements on both sides.

Mr Miriung was exceptional, a person of rare courage who became a martyr for his country. As Sir Julius Chan said on Sunday: "Theodore Miriung was one of the greatest defenders of Bougainville we have seen and he has been slain for no other reason than that he placed the good of his province and its people above his own personal safety." For peace, Bougainville needs more people like him. Unfortunately, his kind are all too rare.

Onus on Chan for Bougainville peace

THE killing of the Bougainville premier, Mr Theodore Miriung, by unidentified assassins at the weekend is another sorry twist in the tragic and violent confrontation between the Papua New Guinea Government and the Bougainville secessionists. Whether his death was the handiwork of "brutal gangsters" as asserted by the Papua New Guinea defence force commander, Brigadier General Jerry Singirok, or the result of a more politically sinister attack, the result is the same: the path to peace has been badly undermined. It is now eight years since the Bougainville Revolutionary Army began its campaign for independence on the island province east of the mainland. Since then, many hundreds of civilians, soldiers and militia have died in an ugly war that has sorely tested both the strength of Papua New Guinea's democratic institutions,

and the ability of its leaders to keep the military on a leash — even when massively provoked by such events as the Kangu beach massacre last month. There is much fault on both sides in this debilitating conflict, but the onus remains on the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, to achieve the breakthrough that he promised when he came to power two years ago. A peaceful resolution of the crisis will come when Sir Julius convinces the secessionists led by Francis Ona that increased autonomy within the confines of the constitution is preferable to a spiral of bloodshed.

That is what Mr Miriung was working for, even though the circumstances of the past few months meant he came to be viewed with suspicion by both sides. Mr Miriung became premier of Bougainville province's transitional government earlier this year in an attempt to bring the two sides together. He seemed well qualified for the task: having grown up in Bougainville he understood the constitutional implications of the struggle. His influence and standing among the Bougainville people was unparalleled. An advocate of peace, he came out of the bush in 1994 to work with Sir Julius when the rebels refused to attend a peace conference. Yet, in a recent interview with *The Australian*, he disclosed his relationship with the national government was one fraught with misunderstanding and suspicion.

Mr Miriung sought to change that. He was, he said, always trying to understand the other party's point of view, whether it was the Government, the PNG Defence Force or the BRA. Describing Mr Miriung as a "courageous and influential figure", the Australian Foreign Minister, Mr Downer, said this week that Australia was ready to increase the focus on Bougainville in its aid program. Peace, Mr Downer said, would be the most fitting memorial for Mr Miriung. Now it is up to Sir Julius and Mr Ona to achieve that goal.

RN - Aust 16/05/96

THE FACT

OFFICIAL

Obituaries

RN Aust 16/10/96

Bougainville's independence battler

THEODORE Mirlung knew he didn't have much time, so he didn't waste it. During a lengthy phone interview with the Bougainville premier recently, I kept apologising that after a long day of meetings, I must be delaying his evening meal. "I am now eating it while I talk to you," finally came his firm but laughing admission.

Be late for an interview or an appointment and you inevitably incurred Mirlung's wrath. He knew what he wanted to achieve and since becoming premier of the Bougainville Transitional Government in April last year, his focus never slipped from the aim of forging a lasting, peaceful solution to the strife that had engulfed his home island.

He was the first leader to emerge in the past eight years of bitter conflict who possessed a pure desire for peace. With no personal pride or ambitions to cloud that desire, he personified the best chance yet of resolving the secession crisis. But this always put him at risk of a violent death. He was assassinated as he ate his meal with his family outside their home in the village of Kapana.

Mirlung was born in the mid 1940s, possibly during the Japanese occupation of Bougainville, and, like many male Bougainvilleans of his generation, was educated by the Catholic church before entering the seminary. He studied for the priesthood for four years before deciding to quit and do

Theodore Mirlung
Premier of Bougainville. Born Rumba Village, Central Bougainville, c. 1945. Died Kapana Village, South Bougainville, October 12.

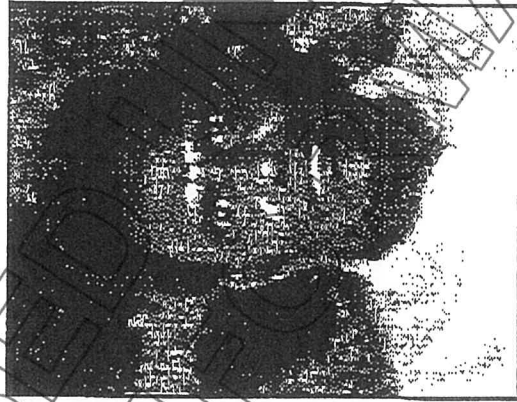
law at the University of Papua New Guinea.

Like most Bougainvilleans he believed his homeland should have been independent. He held a life-long fury over what he saw to be the indifference and injustice of the colonial carve-up of the Solomons group in the late 19th century, which left Bougainville estranged from the rest of the island group and instead incorporated into a nation culturally and ethnically different from his own.

In 1975 he supported the first push for secession, and as a recently graduated law student did much of the legal paperwork behind the scenes for the secessionists.

But when the crisis was resolved peacefully that year, he moved on. With his career, one of the number of outstanding Bougainvilleans who contributed so much to PNG's national life in the years after independence. He was for a time provincial secretary in Bougainville, and later chief lands titles commissioner as well as a magistrate before serving as an acting National Court judge.

A traditional chief, with a deep sense of the responsibilities if not the burden of leadership, he chose in 1990



Peaceful: Theodore Mirlung

to return to be with his people. Living in the North Nasioi area of Central Bougainville, they were at the centre of the conflict.

For all his abrupt impatience with those lagging behind him, Mirlung was one of those rare people whose efforts and responses are totally channelled to achieving the most constructive outcome possible. This made for an unusual mix of idealism and pragmatism in his ideas, which were frequently, if not wilfully, misunderstood by some of those with more complicated agendas than his.

Mirlung persisted with this outlook despite numerous setbacks and disappointments in the past two years

because he could see that clearly it was the only way forward for Bougainville, and indeed PNG. He consistently ignored death threats from the rebels and persistent harassment from the PNG Defence Force to pursue his hopes for Bougainville.

One of his greatest disappointments was the refusal of rebel leaders to attend the island-wide peace talks sponsored by the PNG Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, in October 1994. Despite death threats against leaders from the Bougainville Revolutionary Army's areas who attempted to take part in the conference, Mirlung came out of the bag to attend. He decided to withdraw 35,000 to 20,000 of his own people away from the leadership of the BRA.

Late last year, it was only his sheer stubbornness that eventually persuaded Sir Julius against his better judgment, to again agree for the rebels and other Bougainvillean leaders to hold talks outside of PNG.

It was a serious blow to Mirlung's standing with the rebels when Sir Julius, suspicious that these events were only being used to highlight the BRA cause, cancelled any further talks in January. Just as damaging for Mirlung's relationship with the Prime Minister was the rebels' response: the launch by BRA militants of a series of attacks on the PNG security forces.

PNG's recently had Mirlung found in Provincial Affairs, Peter Barter, someone willing to give him wholehearted trust and support. Barter was probably the first in the PNG National Government to recognise that

Mirlung, with his willingness to deal honestly and respectfully with both sides in the conflict, represented the best chance yet of achieving some sort of breakthrough on Bougainville.

The two men toured the island together in August, sharing their grief at the suffering of their countrymen, confined to government "care centres" with little food or sanitation. Barter had been scheduled to meet Mirlung again on Bougainville yesterday, to finalise their plans for alleviating the suffering. Instead the minister was organising a State funeral for the man he described as a hero.

Mirlung's death was deplored by everyone who knew him: Catholic bishops in the region, rebel and PNG government leaders, BRA Commander Sam Kauona and the Commander of the PNGDF, Brigadier General Jerry Singrok. Ironically, the very people Mirlung so anxiously wanted to bring together united, publicly at least, in their condemnation of his killing.

But they had not given Mirlung the trust and support he needed if he was to have any chance of realising his solutions for Bougainville, and with his death that chance was squandered. It is unlikely, without his leadership, that very much will change on the island for a long time.

Theodore Mirlung is survived by his wife, Veronice, and their children.

■ **Mary-Louise O'Callaghan**
Mary-Louise O'Callaghan is The Australian's South Pacific correspondent.



Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization

Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization

News Release

For immediate release, The Hague, October 16, 1998

UNPO Calls For Full Inquiry Into Premier Miriung's Murder in Bougainville

UNPO has condemned the brutal murder of Theodore Miriung, Premier of the Bougainville Transitional Government (BTG) who was shot 4 times outside his family house in Koparo village in South Bougainville. UNPO General Secretary Michael van Walt who met Mr Miriung at the All Bougainville Leaders Talks in Cairns, in December 1995, said "Mr Miriung had worked courageously and with great integrity for peace and to uphold human rights, especially in these last months during the offensive in Bougainville. He was central in setting up the talks in Cairns and has consistently spoken out for peace in the region."

Dr van Walt is calling for a full international inquiry to be set up to investigate the death of the BTG leader. "Tensions will surely increase unless there is an objective and fair judicial investigation," he said. UNPO has repeatedly condemned the use of military force and called for a political solution to the 8 year conflict which centres around the indigenous people's call for self-determination. UNPO will continue to appeal for all sides to enter into dialogue and return to the negotiating table.

Mr Martin Miriori, the Secretary of the Bougainville Interim Government, and Representative to UNPO for Bougainville, called the murder a "tragedy" and called for international assistance. "We must find out who committed this dreadful act, before it leads to increased violence in Bougainville. So many thousands have been killed, surely this latest killing will convince all the world that there is no military solution."

Mr Miriung had faxed a letter to Mr Miriori two days before his death. In the letter he wrote of the supreme sanctity of human life and the responsibility of all the principal players in the Bougainville crisis to save lives and ensure the safety of future generations. The letter went on to say that all players must make fearless and creative decisions to lay down the basis of peace in Bougainville.

Mr Miriori is available for comment. Bougainville is a Member of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO). UNPO is an organization of nations and peoples not adequately represented in international fora, such as the United Nations. For more information and interviews please contact Kathy Voyles, Media and Information Centre, at UNPO, The Hague, The Netherlands. tel.: +31-70-3603318, fax: +31-70-3603346, email: unpo.nl@antenna.nl. Americas Coordination Office tel: +1 303 637 0475, fax: +1 303 637 0585 MIC/1896PR
www.unpo.org

89020(a)



BOUGAINVILLE INTERIM GOVERNMENT

Representative to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization
Javastraat 40A, 2585 AP The Hague, the Netherlands
tel: +31 70 360 3318 fax: +31 70 360 3346 email: unponi@antenna.nl



7th October 1996

withheld in full - s 6 (b) (ii)

RELEASSED UNDER OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

withheld in full - § 6(e)(1)(C)

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Withheld in full - s. 6 (b) (1)

RELEASSED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

s 9(2)(a)



BOUGAINVILLE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

withheld in full - s 6(b)(ii)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Withheld in full - s 6(b)(ii)

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT