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'IT IS RIGHT TO REBEL'

INDEPENDENCE FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND ALL NATIONS OF THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC. - NO 'BIG BROTHER' INTERVENTION !

The Australian Government has sent an armed force to the Solomon Islands. The force consists of 2200 troops and police to restore 'law and order'. The Prime Minister said, the plan will head off, 'terrorism', corruption, decay'. Or as previously said, "a failed state, " a haven for money laundering, terrorism and gun running".

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute, which recommended military intervention said Mr Howard seemed to be backing a 'European Union of the South Pacific' The Prime Minister dismissed all suggestions' his ideas smacked of colonialism. Before the intervention has arrived, the big suggestions are on the agenda ! Australian troops are allowed to shoot to kill in dangerous situations. The cost is estimated to be \$330 million a year.

The push for 'island union' could include Tonga, Tuvalu, Nauru, the Cook Islands. Fiji and Kiribati . The military intervention is called Helpern Fren (Helping Friend in pidgin).

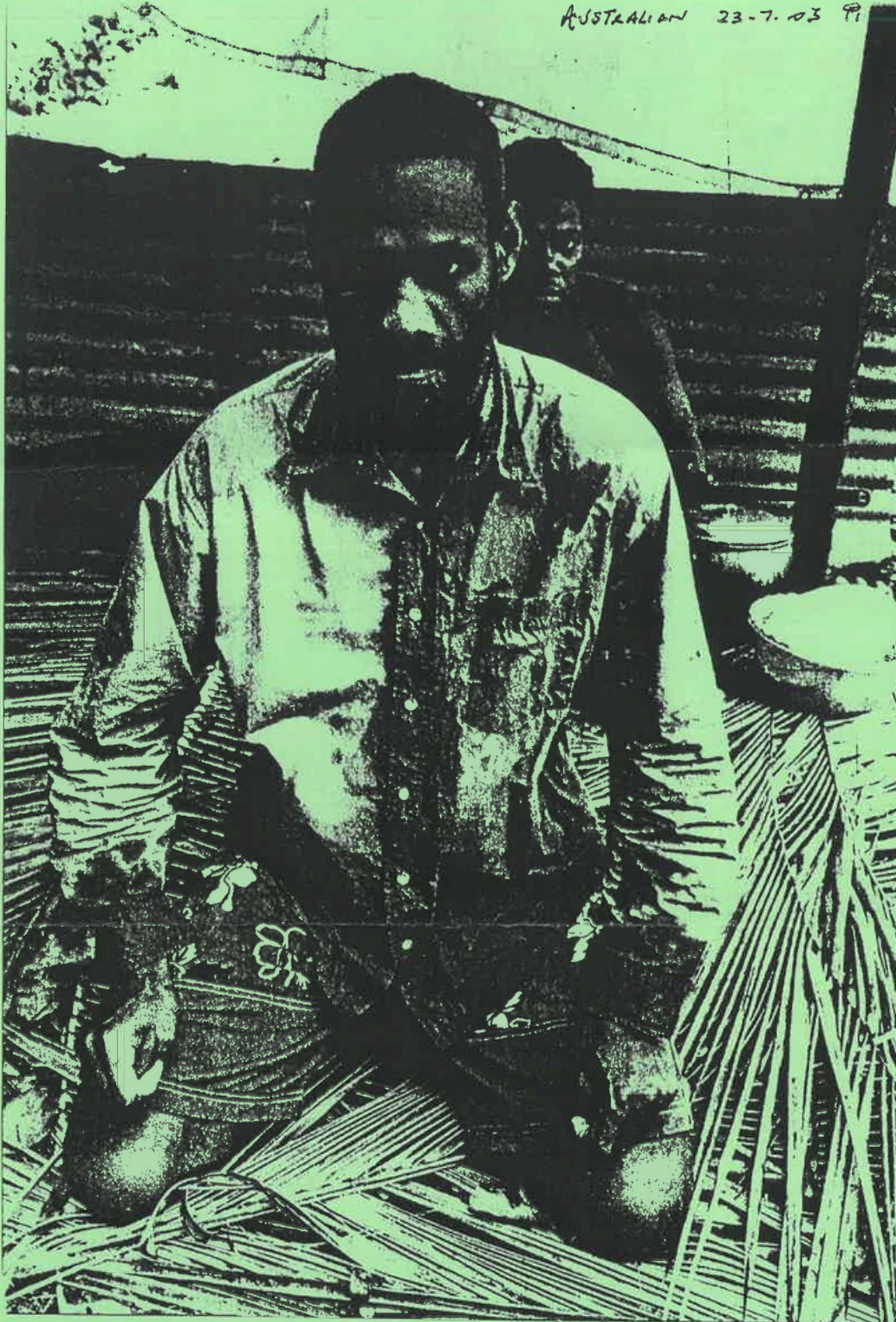
Australian imperialism, best friend to the USA, is fresh from the battles of Afghanistan, East Timor, and Iraq, and always thought to be the 'big brother' of the SW Pacific, is about to build its own sphere of influence in the SW Pacific. It is interesting to note that the forces or those who are in dispute with the Solomons central government , are called , in Australia, 'rebels' , 'war lords' etc. copying the language of other forces in the Middle East. The PM calls the SW Pacific 'our patch'.

The first task for the intervention will be to strengthen the central government and taking over the negotiations with big business exploiting the natural resources of the islands. These are gold, copra, fishing, timber, rather than negotiating with the indigenous people and land owners. Whatever the extent of the riches of the Island, the Japanese took these islands during World War 11, and many Australian soldiers died taking them back.

The PCRC condemns the much publicized neo colonial recommendation of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) stating that, "the collapse of the Solomons Islands is depriving Australia of business and investment opportunities" The PCRC is appalled at the alleged plans for an establishment of a 'governing council of about 12 people led by a chief executive with a light infantry company on stand by, a judicial team of 20, prison staff, a group pf accountants and other financial managers to administer the economy. (PCRC 83 Amy Street , Toorak PRIVATE MAIL Bag SUVA .Fiji)

Radio Australia 14/7/03. reported The PacificConcerns Resource Centre saying , there is no justification for Australia's intervention, despite being requested by the S.I. government. The spokesman for the centre, Tupou Vere says the United Nations should be involved and the people of the Solomons should be consulted and , to our knowledge, there was no public referendum on the Solomons for this move, and, we are worried about the implications of the Australian Government moving in to a Pacific Island country...a similar concern we had when the USA moved into Iraq.'

It is not in the 'interests' of the Australian working people to crush the independence of the Solomon Island people. The 'national interest' the Government talks about is the 'interest ' of big business. The same class business interest that is driving Medicare into the dust, and the same class that impoverishes the people until 1 in 4 are on some form of Welfare, the same class interests that cause the indigenous people of Australia to die before the reach the age to receive an aged pension !



Willing to talk: Keke at his stronghold on Guadalcanal's remote Weathercoast

Picture: AFP

Solomons rebels told not to resist

Mary-Louise O'Callaghan
• Honiara

THE Solomon Islands' most prominent militant, Harold Keke, said he was willing to disarm as the nation's troublemakers were warned yesterday not to resist the Australian-led intervention force due to arrive tomorrow.

Solomons Police Commissioner William Morrell last night warned those holding illegal weapons to surrender them.

Disarming of militant and criminal elements on Guadalcanal and neighbouring Malaita Island are expected to be the focus of the initial stages of the intervention.

However, Keke claimed yesterday that corrupt politicians and police were the country's main problem.

'I am not the main problem; it is corrupt politicians and a police force that is beyond the law'

Harold Keke
Solomon Islands militant

"We are not rascals, we are fighting for independence. I am not the main problem for the Solomon Islands; it is corrupt politicians and a police force that is beyond the law," Keke told Australian freelance journalist Ben Bohane.

Mr Morrell confirmed yesterday that he had established a dialogue with Keke, whose forces on Guadalcanal's remote Weathercoast were accused of killing more than 50 people last year.

Keke said he welcomed the intervention "as long as its first priority is to disarm the militants in Honiara and get rid of corrupt politicians".

"He is willing to talk about disarmament but he has certain conditions," Bohane told *The Australian* on his return from Weathercoast yesterday.

Mr Morrell confirmed yesterday that these conditions included independence for Guadalcanal, the island that hosted the national capital, Honiara.

Asked about the prospect of armed resistance to the intervention forces, Mr Morrell, who is predicting a low-key start to the intervention, said yesterday, "I think anyone considering armed resistance would be very unwise."

National Peace Council leader Paul Tovua used local radio to back up the commissioner's warnings, speaking directly to those militants and criminals still holding illegal weapons.

SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDERS AND ALL ISLAND NATIONS OF THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC.

**DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM.
FIGHT RACISM AND IMPERIALISM !**

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