

F I J I *THE ROLE OF HER MAJESTY - QUEEN ELIZABETH II

29 September, 1987

The Governor-General has spoken on the telephone this morning to The Queen's Private Secretary and has assured The Queen that he remains at his post. For her part, Her Majesty continues to regard the Governor-General as her Representative, and the sole legitimate source of executive authority in Fiji.

The Queen had been pleased to give her support to the political settlement reached last week by the Governor-General and the two parties, and much regrets that this process of peaceful change in restoring Fiji to constitutional normality has been overtaken by illegal action and the use of force. Anyone who seeks to remove the Governor-General from office would, in effect, be repudiating his allegiance and loyalty to The Queen.

Her Majesty hopes that even now the process of restoring Fiji to constitutional normality might be resumed. Many Fijians hold firm their allegiance to the Crown and to the Governor-General as The Queen's personal Representative. The Queen would be deeply saddened if those bonds of mutual loyalty and affection, which have so long held the Fijian people and the British Monarchy together, were to be severed.

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*[The text of these three press releases made during the Fijian crisis was provided by Robin Janurin, Press Secretary to the Queen, Buckingham Palace].



Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver, B.C.

THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT IS ISSUED BY THE PRESS SECRETARY TO THE QUEEN

The Queen has received the following message from the Governor-General of Fiji:-

"Your Majesty,

With humble duty, I wish to submit to you the following advice, acting in my capacity as your Representative in Fiji. Owing to the uncertainty of the political and constitutional situation in Fiji, I have now made up my mind to request Your Majesty to relieve me of my appointment as Governor-General with immediate effect. This I do with the utmost regret; but my endeavours to preserve constitutional government in Fiji have proved in vain, and I can see no alternative way forward.

With deepest respect.

Penaia Ganilau
Governor-General"

In the light of the Governor-General's decision that he can no longer effectively exercise executive authority in Fiji, The Queen has accepted with regret the resignation which Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau has tendered. Her Majesty has expressed to him her gratitude for his loyal services and her admiration for his courageous efforts to avert changes to the form of Government in Fiji by force.

The Queen accepts that it must be for the people of Fiji to decide their own future and prays that peace may obtain among the people of all races in that country. Her Majesty is sad to think that the ending of Fijian allegiance to the Crown should have been brought about without the people of Fiji being given an opportunity to express their opinion on the proposal.

To be taped at 10 a.m. Vancouver time, Thursday, 15th October, 1987

THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI MET THE QUEEN'S PRIVATE SECRETARY AT WINDSOR CASTLE TODAY. (30 MARCH 1988) .

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY, ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY EXPRESSED THE QUEEN'S LIVELY INTEREST IN, AND CONTINUING AFFECTION FOR, THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLES OF FIJI. AS HEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH, HER MAJESTY HAS FOLLOWED CLOSELY ALL DEVELOPMENTS IN FIJI SINCE THE DECLARATION OF THE REPUBLIC. SIR WILLIAM HESELTINE WILL REPORT TO HER MAJESTY ON WHAT RATU SIR KAMISESE MARA TOLD HIM ABOUT THE MOVES TO RESTORE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN HIS COUNTRY, ON A CONSTITUTION WHICH WOULD ENABLE FIJI TO RESUME ITS MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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