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R 270006Z OCT 99  
FM AMEMBASSY APIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0127  
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
AMEMBASSY KOROR  
AMEMBASSY MAJURO  
AMEMBASSY KOLONIA  
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

**RELEASE IN PART B6**

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DEPT. FOR EA/ANP - T. HALSTEAD,  
CA/OCS - DIANE BEAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ECON, CASC, WS  
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SUBJECT: SAMOA SUMMARY

REF: APIA 0017

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior  
Reviewer**

YOUTH CAMPS QUITE:

CONDITIONS IN THE THREE AMERICAN-RUN CAMPS FOR AMERICAN  
JUVENILES REMAIN AN ISSUE. ON CTOBER 19 VISITS TO TWO  
CAMPS, A BETTER WAY AND PARADISE COVE, CHARGE FOUND THE  
STUDENTS APPEARED IN GOOD HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS  
ADEQUATE. A BETTER WAY HOSTS EIGHT MALE STUDENTS, TWO OF  
WHOM WILL FINISH THE PROGRAMME WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH.  
PARADISE COVE STUDENTS NUMBER 78, ALL MALE, FOUR OF WHOM  
ARE OVER THE AGE OF 18, ACCORDING TO CAMP STAFF. A BETTER  
WAY HOUSES ITS STUDENTS IN INDIVIDUAL ROOMS, PARADISE COVE  
STUDENTS ROOM TOGETHER IN GROUPS OF FOUR OR MORE. CHARGE  
HAS RECEIVED NO COMPLAQQTS FROM INDIVIDUALS IN EITHER CAMP  
DURING THE SEVEN WEEKS SINCE HER ARRIVAL. BOTH CAMPS  
ALLOWED CHARGE TO SPEAK PRIVATELY WITH STUDENTS.

CHARGE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT PACIFIC COAST ACADEMY BY PHONE AND IN AN OCTOBER 20 VISIT FOUND NO ONE AT THE SITE. ACCORDING TO A STAFF PERSON MANNING THE ENTRANCE, THE CAMP IS OPERATING AND HAS ABOUT SEVEN STUDENTS. THE PERIMETER IS GATED AND POSTS SIGNS WARNING VISITORS THAT ENTRY IS ALLOWED ONLY BY APPOINTMENT OR WITH A COURT ORDER. (NEITHER OF THE PREVIOUS CAMPS HAD ANY BARRIERS TO ENTRY).

TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS, [REDACTED] VOICED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT CONDITIONS AT PARADISE COVE DURING AN OCTOBER 21 CALL ON CHARGE. [REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED] SAID SHE IS CONCERNED ABOUT 18 YEAR OLD YOUTH WHO ARE KEPT AGAINST THEIR WILL AT THE SITE. [REDACTED] WHO SAID HE IS WORKING ON A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE CAMPS, CHARGED THAT THERE IS CONTINUED ABUSE BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD NOT VISITED THE SITES0Z2Q4QQQMQQDQQ)KOWITZ PULLED OUT A VIDEO CAMERA TO FILM [REDACTED] AS HE EXITED THE CHANCERY IN SPITE OF A PREVIOUS AGREEMENT NOT TO DO SO. (THERE HAD BEEN NO EARLIER REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW).

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APPARENTLY, [REDACTED] ATTEMPTED TO FILM ACTIVITY AT PARADISE COVE OFFICE THE FOLLOWING DAY AND BECAME INVOLVED IN AN ALTERCATION. [REDACTED] FORWARDED A COPY OF A PRESS RELEASE TO THE EMBASSY IN WHICH SHE CHARGED THAT PARADISE COVE EMPLOYEES ATTACKED [REDACTED] (FAXED TO EAP/ANP AND AUCKLAND). [REDACTED] APPARENTLY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SIMILAR CONFRONTATIONS OVER HIS VERY AGGRESSIVE TAPING TACTICS. [REDACTED] NOTES THAT SHE MADE A FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE EMBASSY BUT DID NOT CONTACT THE SAMOAN POLICE. (CHARGE HAS NOT RECEIVED A COMPLAINT FROM [REDACTED])

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FEE FOR CHURCH NON ATTENDANCE:

CERTAIN CHURCHES ARE COMING UNDER FIRE FOR IMPOSING A TAX ON PARISHIONERS FOR LACK OF ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY SERVIES. FINES RANGES FROM FIVE TO FORTY TALA (ABOUT TWO TO FIFTEEN USD). COMPLAINTS SOLICITED BY THE SAMOAN OBSERVER INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER CRITICIZED THE ACTION AS AN INFRINGEMENT ON FREE SPEECH AND AN EXAMPLQLQQ5JQ"ITION GOING TOO FAR.

HYBRID JUCIDIAL SYSTEM:

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SAMOA'S HYBRID JUDICIAL SYSTEM, THE WESTERN AND THE MATAI (CHIEF SYSTEM), IS IMPORTANT IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION. THE VILLAGE FONONO ACT OF 1990 ALLOWS CULTURAL PRACTICES TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN A MODERN COURT SETTING.

FOR EXAMPLE, "THE HAND UP -- AT THE BACK" -- A PLEA FOR MITIGATION -- ALLOWS THE SPEAKER, WHO IS NOT PART OF THE LEGAL PROCEEDING, TO RAISE HIS HAND AND ASK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO

SPEAK. IT CAN ALSO BE A PLEA FOR COMPASSION.

SAMOA IS COMMITTED TO FORMALLY DEVELOPING ITS CUSTOMARY LAW SYSTEM. IN OCTOBER, DR. SALEIMOA VAAI WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF SAMOAN STUDIES AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. THE INSTITUTE IS THE RESEARCH ARM OF THE DEPARTMENT. VAAI IS A SPECIALIST IN CUSTOMARY LAW.

LAST PLACE TO CELEBRATE THE MILLENIUM:

THE MILLENIUM SOCIETY OF SAMOA IS TOUTING THE ISLAND AS THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH TO WELCOME IN THE NEW MILLENIUM. THE VISITORS BUREAU IS EXPECTING UP TO 2000 VISITORS TO WITNESS THE EVENT.

HEALTH: FILARIASIS FREE SAMOA:

SAMOA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH WHO, LAUNCHED A GHQHAIGN IN OCTOBER TO ELIMINATE FILARIASIS WITHIN THREE YEARS. THE MOSQUITO BORN DISEASE AFFECTS 8-10 PERCENT OF THE ADULT POPULATION. WORMS, FILARIAE, ENTER THE BODY THROUGH A BITE BY AN INFECTED MOSQUITO. IN ITS ACUTE STAGE, OFTENTIMES SEVERAL YEARS AFTER BEING BITTEN, THE VICTIM MAY EXPERIENCE SWOLLEN LYMPH NODES  
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AND FEVER. EVENTUALLY REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS MAY BE ENLARGED. THE CHRONIC STAGE IS CHARACTERIZED BY ELEPHANTIASIS. DURING OCTOBER HEALTH WORKERS WILL GO DOOR TO DOOR WITH TWO DRUGS, ALBENDAZOLE AND DIETHLCARBEZINE, AND ADMINISTER A ONCE YEARLY DOSAGE. CHARGE, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION, PARTICIPATED IN THE TELEVISED PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON OCTOBER 29.

CENTRAL BANK OVERVIEW:

INCREASE IN PETROLEUM PRICES CAUSED A .7 PERCENT RISE IN INFLATION ACCORDING TO THE OCTOBER CENTRAL BANK SURVEY. PRIVATE REMITTANCES ARE UP 23 PERCENT TO \$12 MILLION. TOURISM IS AGAIN UP ANOTHER EIGHT PERCENT AND EXPORT EARNINGS INCREASED HIGHER. FISH, COCONUT, KAVA, TARO AND BEER EARNINGS ARE BEHIND THE RISE. COMMERCIAL (##) TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND PUBLIC EARNINGS WENT UP A COMBINED 2.9 MILLION.

GASOLINE PRICES HAVE RISEN STEADILY SINCE JULY AND ARE NOW UP TO \$1.20 PER LITRE FOR PETROL (ABOUT 40 CENTS). THE LOCAL PRESS IS PUTTING THE BLAME ON MOBIL OIL'S WINNING THE GOVERNMENT TENDER TO BE THE SOLE IMPORTER OF OIL PRODUCTS.

ELECTRONIC BANKING:

FIRST MACDONALD'S, NOW ELECTRONIC BANKING. ANZ BANK INTRODUCED AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINES OCTOBER 1 -- THE FIRST IN SAMOA. SO FAR THEY ARE WORKING.

AMERICAN SAMOA REVERSES ENTRY REQUIREMENT:  
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ONE DAY AFTER IMPOSING A ONE HUNDRED USD BOND ON SAMOANS (FORMER WESTERN SAMOA) ENTERING AMERICAN SAMOA, THE AMERICAN SAMOAN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REVERSED ITSELF. ATTORNEY GENERAL IN PAGO PAGO, TOETAGATA ALBERT MAILO, SAID ON OCTOBER 1 THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE SAMOANS WHO STAY OVER THE PERMITTED THREE DAYS AND THE INCREASING NUMBER OF ASIAN IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE TAKEN UP PERMANENT RESIDENCE. TOETAGATA SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECONSIDERED BECAUSE OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE HIGH FEE AND THE PROBLEMS WITH REFUNDING THE \$100 AFTER THE VISITOR RE (##)  
EAST TIMOR DONATION:

THE GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA DONATED 17.000 USD TO EAST TIMOR. SAMOA HAS BEEN QUITE GENEROUS IN ITS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, 17.000 USD TO KOSOVO AND 33.000 USD TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRC:

ACTING PRIME MINISTER TUALA SALE TAGALOA TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE SAMOA'S COMMITMENTS TO THE PRC AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION. THE PRC RECENTLY INCREASED ITS SPREP FUNDING COMMITMENT AND HAS BROKEN GROUND ON REHABILITATION OF THE NATIONAL STADIUM.

(ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: APIA DOES NOT HAVE CLASSIFIED CAPABILITY. POST OFTEN EXPERIENCES PROBLEMS WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED SYSTEM AND THE MOST RELIABLE COMMUNICATION IS BY FAX)

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(##) GARBLED TEXT CORRECTIONS WILL FOLLOW

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