

MEETING OF C.R.A. AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS HELD
IN ADMINISTRATOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM, KONE DOBU, ON
MONDAY, 19TH JUNE, 1967.

PRESENT

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| Mr. F.C. Henderson (Chairman) | Assistant Administrator
(Economic Affairs) |
| Mr. D.S. Grove | Director of the Department
of Lands, Surveys & Mines |
| Mr. W.W. Watkins | Secretary for Law |
| Mr. T.G. Aitchison | First Assistant Director,
Department of District
Administration |
| Mr. F.F. Espie | Director, Bougainville
Copper Company |
| Mr. Bishop | Area Manager - Bougainville |
| Mr. Brown | D.D.C., Kieta |

The current position was reviewed and the following emerged :-

The Pakia people are objecting to road location and road mapping. The first objection was in the grid area but was overcome when one policeman was sent to explain the situation. The second incident occurred on Friday, 9th June, 1967. The survey party was on the new road at Narovi marking the existing road for mapping purposes; wooden stakes were being used. The party was accompanied by Patrol Officer Dagge and six policemen. The villagers removed the stakes, and from 40 to 50 people confronted the party, with women and children in the front line. The party withdrew. The group had not objected to construction of road. The Secretary for Law was asked to examine the legal status of pegs, wooden and otherwise, put in by (a) licensed surveyors (b) assistant surveyors and (c) the legal position regarding survey pylons erected for mapping purposes as distinct from land surveys.

The Company stated that the mapping of the road is essential in the long term, but could be delayed. Similarly, the triangulation of the Panguna area is essential but immediate needs could be met by establishing subsidiary markers in the Panguna area where they can be protected. To set up subsidiary markers would require the use of a telerange, which is not available to the Company at the moment, but spare equipment is available in the Department of Lands and two private survey contractors already established in the Territory have the equipment.

Mr. Bishop agreed to contact the contractors first but if these were not available to fix points for triangulation then the Administration would consider making staff and equipment available for the job.

It was pointed out that there will be a considerable amount of surveying required in the near future, e.g. the town, mill site and tailings dam. The area in need of survey could involve some 2,000 people. In addition to this there will be constant need for mining surveys and drilling operations, not only to test the ore body but to test the ground for construction purposes. Some means must be found to ensure that permanent and temporary survey pegs, e.g. for contouring, are not removed by the people. Hence, the need for a thorough check of the current legislation to check the practicability of amending the survey ordinance if necessary.

It does appear that the situation in the area is hardening and opposition could be spreading to the coastal areas. There is common talk of the Naurau agreement, the Army not being able to get land at Lae and if the Army cannot get it why should not the local people be able to resist the Government, and the Rabaul copper operations.

Father Wiley is reported as the main informant, although a number of local people are quite well educated and avid news listeners.

There is common talk, believed to emanate from Father Wiley, that the copper will make an independent Bougainville possible.

Brown and the Company believe that it is essential to re-establish the Government position on the road at Narovi. Failure to do so will make movement in other areas, especially the outliers, difficult.

If a clash occurs in the Narovi area and is overcome resistance elsewhere could collapse.

Aitchison and Brown believe that the area should be re-enforced with 50 police and one European police officer if position is to be restored and feasibility studies are to proceed as planned. With reluctance, Headquarters officers agreed.

According to the Company's current building programme police quarters would not be completed for three months but due to the need to re-establish the Government position, agreed to re-allocate priorities so that police accommodation would be completed in four weeks. Mr. Aitchison is arranging for more police accommodation in Kieta but this will take at least eight weeks to complete. A house is available in Kieta but it will need a direction to ensure it is allocated to an extra European police officer. Extra police should be moved into the area in small parties. D.D.C. Brown is prepared to resume work on surveying road when he is assured of an extra 15 police without weakening the holding police force in the Panguna area.

The Company had proposed to go into the outlying areas towards the end of the month and begin surveys of the West Moroni area (garden and pig land) about the 1st of July but agreed to delay these operations until position is re-established.

The Company is reluctant to delay investigating the outliers as it wishes to repatriate helicopters. The main reason for keeping them now is to investigate these areas.

Mr. Espie indicated that changes in Plan 'A' would be passed on immediately but it was stressed that this plan is not necessarily the final plan.

Mr. Brown asked how much of this plan should now be made known to the people. Mr. Aitchison advised caution as it was subject to major changes. It was agreed that nothing should be released now as major changes were likely.

Mr. Bishop asked how much of Plan 'A' should be made public at hearing for renewal of right of entry - to come up on 8th August, and asked if legally open hearings had to be held each six months. Mr. Grove stated that it was at the Wardens discretion. The group agreed that it was pointless to re-open public hearings each six months - this aspect should be discussed with the Warden and His Honour.

Mr. Brown stated that sluicing trials should pose no greater problem than other operations but said that the "addit" test would be very difficult. Preparations for this are planned to begin in eight weeks with test ore going out five weeks later.

Other points discussed :-

- (a) stream gauging
- (b) meteorological records
- (c) V.H.F. repeater - check P. & T. legislation
- (d) H₂O temperatures - lake area
- (e) Hahalis workmen and difficulty of discrimination against their employment
- (f) use of outside labour such as Tolais
- (g) married employees
- (h) protection of accelerometers

SUMMING UP

1. Agreed to concentrate on restoration of road position. This is to take precedence over move to outliers.
2. Agree to posting of 50 more police and European police officer and ~~xxxx~~ vehicle from Sohano.
3. Police to be brought in in small parties.
4. Brown to move when he has 15 extra police.
5. Bishop to complete police accommodation in four weeks.
6. Administration to have extra accommodation Kieta in eight weeks.
7. European police officer to be given housing priority.
8. The Secretary for Law to examine legal position regarding survey pegs.
9. Secretary for Law to ~~xxxxxx~~ examine powers of P. & T. to protect V.H.F. repeater stations.
10. Setting up of subsidiary points in Panguna area by use of teluometers to be examined.
11. Consideration to be given to amending Survey Ordinance to protect markers.
12. Mr. Brown suggested bring out people to sitting of House - this to be considered.
13. Lands Commission to be asked to formally setting up adjudication areas.
14. Permit to enter - must ~~xxxx~~^{open} hearings be conducted every six months?

FINALLY

- A. Hardening resistance must be expected.

- B. Agreed that similar meeting of C.R.A. headquarters, Administration headquarters and Administration and Company field staff be held every two months.
- C. D.D.C. Brown personally to attend weekly field meetings with Company field staff.

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