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Sub-District Office,  
KIETA,  
Bougainville District.

9th August, 1968.

The Deputy District Commissioner,  
District Office,  
KIETA.

C.R.A. STREAM SAMPLING OPERATION - UNABATO.

Following my withdrawal from the UNABATO area of the South Nasioi Census Division on Tuesday the 6th inst., in accordance with your verbal instructions, I returned to the area again yesterday, the 8th July, 1968.

Accompanied by Sub-Inspector C. Coady, twenty members of the Barapina riot squad and the C.R.A. party of the Craestar, consisting of three geologists and two Bougainville Assistants, I departed Kieta by vehicle at 0850hrs. The party arrived at SIROMBA village at 0945hrs and I then spoke to the police re my intentions, the Law and what was required of them. I pointed out that they were to take their instructions and orders from the Sub-Inspector.

The party departed SIROMBA at 1020hrs with myself in the lead and the DARUTUI vehicular road was followed for ten minutes until the PANGAMI track was picked up. This track was followed for a further ten minutes until the AROPA River was crossed. At 1055hrs I arrived at PANGAMI village, followed shortly behind by the C.R.A. party and most of the police party. When the Sub-Inspector had failed to arrive by 1125, I sent two police constables back to find their Officer. At 1130hrs it was reported that the Officer was sick and unable to continue and that he did not wish me to wait for him any longer. I therefore proceeded, leaving two Constables behind to accompany their Officer.

At 1200hrs, a few minutes from UNABATO village, the helicopter off the Craestar contacted us visually as previously arranged. I arrived at UNABATO at 1205hrs with the C.R.A. party and the police party accompanying myself. Here there were about twenty men and as many women and children. I informed the people that, as indicated on Tuesday when I departed the area, I was now escorting the C.R.A. party back to the river where they wished to obtain several sediment samples. Tuesday's main spokesman said 'You cannot go, we have more talk yet'. I said I would escort the party in, but would listen to anything which had NOT been raised during previous discussions. One Peter ITOMUI (who forced the withdrawal of geologist Atkinson from SIROMBA last Sunday) then commenced raising all the old arguments of why C.R.A. was not allowed into their land. I refused to listen and walked away from the group.

At 1215hrs I informed the people that I had heard all these arguments before and that today I was there to ensure that the work of C.R.A. was carried out - I was not there to talk. I pointed out to the people that I had spent five days at their rest house last month to hear their talk, and that I considered that sufficient time for listening. Peter ITOMUI then said 'You cannot go, wait for the Police Officer first'. The people then informed me that the Officer had almost caught up with us. However, I decided that they were hoping that by causing some delay by getting me to await the Officer, they hoped to prevent us from completing our work in the area before dark. I therefore decided to press on and leave the Officer to his own initiative.



At 1250hrs our party, followed by a large number of men, arrived at the junction of two streams where the C.R.A. work was to commence. I instructed the C.R.A. party to stand in mid-stream and then cordoned off the bank facing the party of men and placed police along the bank, upstream of and downstream of the geologists. I then informed the men according to paragraph 5 of Instruction 2 of J. 1-58 and told the geologists to proceed.

The men started shouting about trespass and exploitation. I informed the men that the Law stood and I was prepared to enforce it. I told them that the House of Assembly had passed the Laws and backed the C.R.A. project. Further, I informed the men that their local member supported the mining legislation. Finally I told them that when U.N.O. visited Kieta earlier this year, they supported the mining laws and C.R.A. activities - even an African member. The geologists had by this time unpacked their equipment and were about to take samples. At 1305 as the first sample was taken from the stream bed, the party of men commenced pushing their way through the police cordon. They were pushed back and held and I again told the shouting mob that I would allow the work to go ~~xxx~~ ahead, that I was 'fastening the area in which the geologists were working' (this being in accordance with S.278 of the Q.C.C.) and that if they persisted they would be in trouble (I was thinking in terms of S.61 of the Q.C.C. as the mob kept shouting that they would carry out an action which <sup>in my view</sup> would contravene S.346 of the Q.C.C.).

As the geologists started to sieve the samples, the mob again broke through the police cordon and rushed the geologists. One geologist was pushed to the ground and fell in the river from where his sieve pan was snatched from him and tipped empty. I pushed through a mob and forced a man off the geologist (whom I think was Scott) and, with a baton prodded off a man who was standing over Scott. At 1320 hrs. another attempt was made to take samples. The mob (a quick head count indicated 37 adult males) again broke through the police cordon and rushed the geologists. I shouted warnings to all to backed off and shouted instructions to police to pull everyone back and push others off the geologists. I then noticed two geologists lying in the water with several men tugging and pushing around them. I shouted for the men to desist, and when they failed to do so, I pushed off two and a further two who persisted and were rapidly being re-inforced, I tapped with my baton. One was hit on the back of the head, whilst the other who was leaning over ~~gm~~ geologists Atkinson, happened to turn slightly and look up as I struck and caught the baton over the left eye. This latter again turned to the geologists and pulled a tray off Atkinson. I then grabbed the man and arrested him and shouted for all to clear the area immediately before I gave the police further instructions. The arrested man was hand-cuffed and spokesmen surrounded me shouting that they had finished and wanted to talk 'easy'. I told the mob I would only talk when they had left the stream and a new cordon had been established. The men complied and by 1325hrs all were on the bank and the geologists re-commenced work whilst I started talking to the men. At 1330 Police Officer Coady arrived on the scene and one man started shouting that the geologists must stop. I warned the mob and the man was quietened down by his own people.

I then informed the people that I was accompanying the geologists upstream to complete the work. Coady said he would stop and talk to the people. I then departed the scene and walked upstream with the C.R.A. party and was not followed. At 1340hrs about twenty DARUTUI men arrived and asked where the UNABATO people were. I told them and warned them not to try anything. They said they had only come to listen to the talk and went off. At 1345hrs, the C.R.A. party split up to work on two streams. I remained in the area until two parties of the C.R.A. workers had returned and departed the river area at 1530hrs when I heard that all the people had returned to



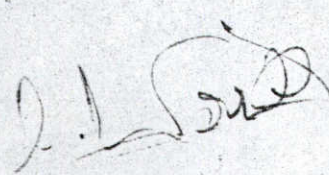
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THEIR VILLAGE WITH Sub-Inspector Coady. As C.R.A. had by this time completed most of their work and had three DARUTUI (S.D.A. types) working for them I walked up to the village and arrived at 1555hrs. There I found 70-80 men and women and was informed that Coady had long since headed back towards the cars.

I immediately set up the A510 radio and attempted to contact Kieta. After some difficulty, Kieta was informed re our situation and E.T.A. The complete C.R.A. party joined me in the village at 1615hrs and carried on to return to the cars. I awaited the arrival of the rest of the police party and departed UNABATO at 1630hrs. I arrived back at the cars with the last of the police party at 1745hrs and departed for Kieta at 1800hrs.

My verbal report was made to yourself upon my arrival in Kieta at 1905hrs.

The arrested man was medically examined this morning and was found to require NO MEDICAL TREATMENT WHATSOEVER.

  
(C. WARRILLOW).

Assistant District Officer.