

Extracts from A D Patel's writing

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Time and again British statesmen in England have reiterated that the ultimate goal of British rule in the Crown colonies is self-government for the territories concerned. If that is really the goal, the least the British government can immediately do is to stop ruling these territories for the benefit of Great Britain and make the interests and welfare of the colonies the supreme objects of their rule.

*On opposition to communal (racial) rolls*

Communal Rolls can be a serious obstacle to the successful operation of parliamentary democracy. The elected representatives of a racial or religious sub-community cannot afford to subordinate the interests and prejudices of their people to those of a larger community. Whether elected as independents, members of a communal party, or even as members of a party professing to transcend communal lines, they will not accept party discipline in a way to offend the group upon whose support their political future depends. It will inhibit the formation of secular parties. Success in politics will depend upon reflecting exactly the communal interests and prejudices. Compromise will be rendered difficult and relative party strength may be frozen for long periods because a party can grow only with an increase in the size of the community upon which it is based. In such a case, government formed by one or more of these communal parties, may not be able to meet the challenge of urgent social problems and a breakdown of representative government may occur because the legislators and executives are prevented by communal loyalties from attacking problems in a common-sense fashion.

**Further reading**

Lal, B V, 1997. *A Vision for Change: AD Patel and the politics of Fiji*, National Centre for Development Studies, The Australian National University.



■ **Albert Henry** Albert Royle Henry (11 June 1907–1 January 1981) was the first premier of Cook Islands. Educated at Anaura School, Aitutaki, he worked as a clerk, teacher, labourer and storeman before becoming involved in the

labour movement in New Zealand. Returning to Rarotonga, he founded the Cook Islands Party in 1964 and led it to victory in the first general elections for the Legislative Assembly of the Cook Islands on 20 April 1965, although he himself lacked the necessary residential qualifications to stand as a candidate. The new government quickly amended the constitution; his sister, Marguerite Story, resigned her seat; and Henry won the by-election and became premier of the Cook Islands in June 1965. He continued in office until July 1978 when, following allegations of electoral malpractice, eight members of the Cook Islands Party, including Sir Albert Henry, were charged with corruption. He was subsequently banned from politics for three years, and the Queen withdrew his knighthood. He married Elizabeth Connel in 1927.—KRF

**Further reading**

Crocombe, R, 1979. *Politics in the Cook Islands: the inside story*, Polynesian Press.

■ **Wilson Inia** Wilson Fagmanuia Inia (1908–83), Rotuma's first senator in the post-independence Fiji legislature, was the son of a Rotuman METHODIST minister. Educated at Davuilevu Teachers' Training Institute in Fiji, in 1931 he took a position there as tutor. He stayed for 15 years, tutoring in English, mathematics and hygiene. He went on a deputation as Methodist preacher to Australia for two years (1938–39), and represented Fiji at a World Meeting of the International Missionary Council in Madras, India (1938). He married Elizabeth Kafonika in 1947, shortly before being appointed headmaster at Richmond School on the island of Kadavu—the first non-European to hold that post. In 1947 he was appointed Justice of the Peace for the Southern District of Fiji, and a member of the Methodist Synod of Fiji, which he served until 1952.

He returned to Rotuma in 1953 as headmaster of Malhaha School and in 1958 was appointed headmaster of Rotuma High School, which he founded. In 1965 he received a Certificate of Honour from Queen Elizabeth II for public service to education in the colony. Inia also became the guiding light for Rotuma's fledgling COOPERATIVES movement, which had begun four years prior to his transfer. Convinced that the key to the cooperatives' success was bookkeeping, he formed, along with a Fijian trainer, a bookkeeping class that he taught without compensation. In 1958 he was given a scholarship by the British Council to study the operation of cooperatives in England and Scotland. Under his guidance the Rotuma Cooperative Association became one of

## Leadership

the most successful in the Pacific region. A natural leader, Inia was elected to the Rotuma Island Council, assuming a major role in formulating policy for the island's development. In June 1969 he became a Member of the British Empire (MBE), and the following year was chosen as one of three men to represent Rotuma's interests at the conference on Fiji's independence in London. Following independence he served as senator for 13 years, until his death in 1983. He served as vice-president of the Methodist Conference in Fiji during 1977–78.—AH

■ *Sir Robert Rex* Robert Richmond Rex (25 January 1909–13 December 1992), the longest-serving head of government in the Pacific islands, was born at Hamula, Alofi, Niue Island, son of Leslie Rex (a school inspector who served as official interpreter for the Niue government from 1952) and educated at Tufukia government school. Having worked in business and set up his own company, he entered the Niue Island Assembly in 1966, becoming Leader of Government Business in 1974 and then premier after the introduction of self-government later that year. His wise and steady leadership over 16 years relied on consensus and minimized the politicization of the public service. A new opposition party, formed in 1990, was unable to unseat him in the 1991 elections nor in an attempted no-confidence vote in parliament, and he remained in office until his death. He was succeeded as premier by Young Vivian, first in an acting capacity and then elected by parliament.—KRF

■ *Sir Fiatau Penitala Teo* Fiatau Penitala Teo (July 1911– ), first Governor General of Tuvalu, was born at Funafuti, son of Teo Vali, and began teaching (1930–32), before entering the colonial administration as a clerk and interpreter (1932–37). He then served in administrative positions on Banaba (Ocean Island, 1937–42), Tarawa (now Kiribati, 1943–44), and Tuvalu (1944–58), interrupted by war service (1944–45), during which he was promoted to second lieutenant. From 1959, he served as District Officer, and later District Commissioner in both Ellice Islands and Gilbert Islands, and finally ended his distinguished public service career with the appointment as Governor General from 1978, when Tuvalu became independent, until 1986.—KRF

■ *Francis Sanford* Francis Ariioehau Sanford (11 May 1912– ), first head of government of French Polynesia, is a Tahitian of American ancestry. Born and educated in Pape'ete, he began his career as a teacher (1929–32), before entering the administrative service. At the start of the Pacific War, he was

Administrator of the Gambier (Mangareva) District (1939–41), during which time he rallied support for Free France. He enlisted for military service, and was appointed liaison officer for the American forces stationed on Bora Bora, receiving several citations. After the war he returned to teaching, rising to Director of Education and then holding several other important administrative positions, before becoming involved in politics in 1959. He was elected the first mayor of the municipality of Faa'a, near Pape'ete, in 1965, and then won election in March 1967 as a deputy (*deputé*) in the French parliament, in the first of four consecutive terms to represent French Polynesia in Paris. He formed a radical political party, Te E'a Api no Polynesia, which won a majority in the September 1967 elections to the territorial assembly on a platform of internal self-government, and successfully achieved a pardon for the exiled rebel politician, POUVANA'A A OOPA, in November 1968. During the 1970s Sanford's opposition to NUCLEAR TESTING included returning his war service medals to France. Sanford then became vice-president of the new government council, which first met on 22 July 1977, ending his political career in May 1982.—KRF

■ *Malietoa Tanumafili II* Malietoa Tanumafili II (4 January 1913– ) was born in Apia, the son of Malietoa Tanumafili I, and was educated at Leififi, Apia, St Stephen's College and Wesley College, Auckland. Elected to the title of Malietoa in 1940, he became Fautua (one of the two high chiefs) and was one of the Samoan representatives who appeared before the United Nations session in New York in 1958. With Tupua Tamasese Mea'ole, he was joint chairman of the Working Committee on Independence, and later of the Constitutional Convention of 1959. Awarded the CBE in 1959, at independence in 1962 he became a joint Head of State with Mea'ole (who died in April 1963) and remains sole Head of State for his lifetime. He was married to Lily Molioo Setu in 1940; and after her death, to Patu Tauvela Hunter in 1962.—KRF

■ *Sir John Guise* John Guise (1914–91), Papua New Guinea politician and Governor General, was born in Gedulalara village, near Dogura, Milne Bay District. His grandfather was Reginald Guise, an English adventurer who reached Papua in the 1880s, settled as a trader and married locally. John Guise received four years of formal education from 1923, and at age 14 began work on Samarai as a waterside worker for BURNS PHILP, remaining in this job until war broke out, after which he joined the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) as a