

On a seaside plot of land, Mereta Turau shares a wooden shack without windows or electricity with his 10 grown-up children—nine of whom are unemployed. A 62-year-old who moved here from Raiatea Island to work in construction during the boom years, he is now a fisherman resigned to his fate. "With or without independence, it will be the same hard life for people like me," he says.

But the young are more radical. "The French run everything here: the state, the airport, the port, economic life, everything," says 31-year old Tefana Tavarii. "And we have nothing." Standing beside him, 24-year-old Camille Rooarui agrees. "To get a job here, you need a French diploma. But I'm not French. I'm Maohi. The French are colonialists. We're at home here, and we're treated like dogs."

Faaa's mayor is Oscar Temaru, a proindependence leader. At city hall, a series of Polynesian-style huts, the French flag and official portrait of Mr. Chirac are conspicuously absent. The 51-year-old Mr. Temaru, a former customs officer, makes a point of speaking English, not French.

"The French say Tahiti is France, but we can't accept that," says the soft-spoken Mr. Temaru. "Geographically and historically, this is my country, not Chirac's. Paris is almost 20,000 kilometers away, people are freezing there while we're sweating in the heat." Mr. Temaru hopes for a peaceful evolution toward independence, saying Tahiti has to rethink its whole development model. "If France says bye-bye, we'll tell our people we have to return to the land. We don't want to go back to the Stone Age, but to reality."

But many view Mr. Temaru as an idealist. "Independence would plunge French Polynesia into misery," asserts Mr. Flosse, the president. "France doesn't impose its presence on us. We're the ones who want France to stay."

A majority of French Polynesians agree. A poll last October showed some 57% of Polynesians don't want independence, while 15% are in favor of independence within three years. Mr. Temaru's party has only four of 41 legislative seats. But even those who want to remain part of France say the country has to break its economic dependence on the mother country, and it should wisely use the 10-year grace period to start building a local economic base.

"The departure of the nuclear-test center is both an opportunity, because we'll be obliged to change systems whether we want to or not, and a risk, because we're not really prepared to change systems," says Jean-Claude Barral, the principal of Faaa's only public high school. "But it's clear we can't continue living in the same system we've had for 25 years without money falling from the sky."

[From the Star Bulletin, Jan. 19, 1996]

NUCLEAR TEST WARNING

While protests have focused on the French nuclear weapons tests in the South Pacific, India has been secretly preparing to conduct its own nuclear explosion. The Clinton administration has quietly warned New Delhi that if it goes ahead Washington will cut off virtually all aid.

The unpublished message was delivered last month after U.S. intelligence officials detect early signs that a nuclear test was in preparation, the Los Angeles Times reported. India was warned that such an exercise would prompt the administration to invoke a 1994 law requiring the U.S. to cut off all economic and military aid, credits, bank loans and export licenses. The total would run into billions of dollars. The law applies to all undeclared nuclear-weapons nations.

India conducted its only nuclear explosion in 1974 and has denied plans to conduct a new

test. A Clinton administration official now says the U.S. accepts India's assurances, but the warning would not have been issued without evidence.

The Clinton's administration has had its problems in relations with Japan and China. The nuclear test issue could sour relations with another Asian giant.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 24, 1996]

POSSIBILITY OF DEFAULT STARTS TO WORRY EUROPE, ESPECIALLY FRANCE

(By Craig R. Whitney)

PARIS, January 23.—The possibility that the deficit-cutting impasse between Congress and Clinton Administration could start causing the United States Government to default on its debt next month has begun to sink in on European leaders, and the French are anxious to avoid the turmoil that could result.

President Jacques, Chirac, who will visit Washington next week, is prepared to warn in a speech to a joint session of Congress that default would upset economies around the world and deeply undermine the American global position, French officials said today.

Congressional Republicans have threatened to refuse to raise the national debt limit unless the Clinton Administration agrees to their agenda for cutting the Federal deficit. If the Administration refuses to give in and fails to find other ways of coming up with money, the Government could start running out of money to pay obligations due on March 1.

At this point some European leaders are said to be beginning to feel like onlookers at a political game whose players appear little concerned about the chaos a default would cause in international currency and bond markets.

Some see a situation comparable to that in 1975, when Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany felt compelled to warn President Gerald R. Ford that letting New York City go bankrupt could send economic shock waves around the world, which was still fragile from the effects of a sudden rise in oil prices.

Mr. Chirac told the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, and Speaker Newt Gingrich during his last visit to Washington in the summer that the United States gave too little foreign aid to developing countries, and French officials say that he plans to deliver the same message to Congress in an address planned for Feb. 1.

"We hope that Congress will be disposed to let the United States lives up to its global responsibilities," one official here said.

Mr. Chirac will tell Congress, French officials say, that Europe with about the same size economy as the United States, gives three times as much to developing countries—\$31 billion, compared with less than \$9 billion last year from the United States.

"Where is America and its traditional generosity, where is its desire to help reshape the world?" asked one French policy maker.

Mr. Chirac is also likely to use his visit to tell both Congress and the Administration that France will insist on reshaping the NATO alliance to reflect changes since the end of cold war, according to officials in Brussels and Paris.

Mr. Chirac has reintegrated France into some NATO military structures that it left in 1966, but officials say he did so to push for the creation of a stronger European defense arm within the alliance. "We need to be able to deal with crises like Bosnia even if the United States doesn't want to become involved," an official said.

Mr. Chirac may also tell Washington that American plans to contribute \$600 million to

the reconstruction of Bosnia over the next three years are inadequate. European estimates of the total cost run to \$3.7 billion. "Don't think that the Europeans will be the only ones paying for Bosnian reconstruction," Mr. Chirac said in a recent interview, adding that the Europeans expected the United States to pay about the same as they will—about one third.

American officials have responded that the United States committed 20,000 soldiers to the NATO peacekeeping force that began moving into Bosnia last month, a larger contingent than any of its allies.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CHENOWETH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today until 1 p.m., on account of medical reasons.

Mr. SERRANO (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of a death in the family.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, after 6:30 p.m. on account of family illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DOGGETT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. VOLKMER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. SCHROEDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEUTSCH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TORRICELLI, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CHRYSLER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GOODLING, for 5 minutes, on January 31.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ROTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TORRICELLI, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GREENWOOD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. STEARNS, for 5 minutes, on January 30.