

# FIJI CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION

6 September 1996

**His Excellency Ratu Sir Kamisese Kapaiwai Tuimacilai Mara**, GCMG, KBE, CF, KSt.J, MSD

Your Excellency:

## REPORT OF THE FIJI CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION

We have the honour to present to you this, our unanimous Report.

The Terms of Reference agreed to by Parliament and contained in Your Excellency's warrant to us represented a significant achievement in the political history of this country and set the tone for our work. It has been our privilege to work with them.

They required the Commission to review the 1990 Constitution of Fiji and produce a report recommending constitutional arrangements which would meet the present and future needs of the people of Fiji, promote racial harmony, national unity and the economic and social advancement of all communities.

Among other things, these arrangements had to take into account internationally recognised principles and standards of individual and group rights, guarantee full protection and promotion of the rights, interests and concerns of the indigenous Fijian and Rotuman people, and have full regard for the rights, interests and concerns of all ethnic groups in Fiji.

Our report entitled **The Fiji Islands: Towards a United Future** stresses that the unity of this nation is a continuous process of discovery and enrichment. In national as in our daily life, nothing remains fixed forever. Progress in a multi-ethnic society is achieved when its citizens realise that what is good for their neighbour must ultimately be good for them as well, when difference and diversity are seen not as sources of division and distrust but of strength and inspiration.

National Unity is a goal whose fulfillment will require an abundance of patience, good will and understanding among all the citizens of the Fiji Islands. It will require the nurturing of spiritual and human values which sustain people in times of need and help them adapt to situations of rapid change. It will require building on the already considerable human and material resources of these islands. And it will be the touchstone against which the people will measure progress towards a strong and united future for themselves and for generations to come.

Our signatures appear at the end of the report which now follows.