

c/o Institut Français D'Océanie,
Nouméa, New Caledonia,
April 2, 1955.

Dr. Alexander Spoehr,
Bernice P. Bishop Museum,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dear Dr. Spoehr:

This is a report on what I have done so far and on my plan for the remainder of the trip. I am asking for more money. I will go into the details farther along, but I believe you will feel the request is justified. More than that, since I am in the area, I think it would be hard for me to justify shirking any of the undertakings I will propose.

I must apologize for the haste with which this report is done. I would have preferred to draft it more carefully and to have sent copies to all the members of the Committee. However, my typewriter will not make enough copies, and since I am leaving for the bush on Monday and have a lot to do, I will send only this one copy and leave it to you to communicate with the other members.

My first stop after Honolulu was Suva, where I spent about 10 days. Dr. Edmonds, of the Central Medical School, was quite cooperative and I was able to get in some work with informants. I got a Tongan vocabulary for Dr. Elbert, a vocabulary of a New Ireland language, and a shorter vocabulary of a language from northwestern Ysabel. The last was one of the things I was very eager to get. That, with a longer vocabulary of a closely related dialect which I got from Capell, should be enough to settle the position of that part of Ysabel. I also had the opportunity of hearing a little Bukawa and Palauan, although I did not have time to take vocabulary systematically.

I next stopped here in Nouméa for less than a week. The purpose of this stop was to establish contact with Guiart and the IFO and to lay some plans for my return here. The cooperation I have received from both the IFO and all branches of the South Pacific Commission is more than I would have thought of expecting. Guiart is going to drive me around the island, get me safely installed in the villages, and introduce me to informants.

I arrived in Sydney February 4th and remained until March 30th. My objectives were to get manuscript material from Capell, to see the microfilms collected by the South Pacific Commission, and generally to obtain information about the islands and to make arrangements for the rest of my trip. I got a great deal of material from Capell - I copied a number of shorter vocabularies and had a considerable quantity of larger manuscripts microfilmed. I can have no exact appreciation of the value of what I got until I get back and work with it, but it was surely worth the time spent. I inspected all the SPC linguistic microfilms and will put in an order for a number of them. I also had the opportunity to talk to a number of people who have traveled in the islands.

I made one trip out of Sydney - to Canberra, where I arranged for my British Solomon Islands visa (now approved), and had a chance to talk with the Valentines, who were with Goodenough in New Britain.

This brings me up to date, except that I probably should mention one thing more. The SPC Social Development Section had been instructed to arrange for a review of Capell's Linguistic Survey of the South-western Pacific, and they were rather eager to have me do it. I was indebted to them for a number of things, and after a little stalling, produced what I think will be called a "review-article". It is supposed to be published in their Quarterly Bulletin. It is intended to be on a popular level, and for me, served as an excuse to deliver a little lecture on the phonemic principle which I hope will, in some small measure, serve to counteract the trend away from linguistic sophistication. I hope it will also serve to get me ten guineas sterling.

My present plan calls for me to be in New Caledonia for approximately 3 months - until about July 1st. From here, I will return to Sydney for about 3 weeks, and then go on to Dutch New Guinea. Soon after arriving there, I will set out for Australian New Guinea and the Solomons. There I plan to make short stops at Wewak, Kavieng, Rabaul, Honiara (perhaps 2 weeks ~~more~~ at Honiara), Vella Lavella, Lae, Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, and then back to Hollandia. I am planning to allow about 4 months in Dutch New Guinea and then go on to Europe, where one month may suffice. The Australian New Guinea - Solomons trip should take about 2 months. This makes a total of about 11 months from now.

I will break this schedule down into separate projects and discuss each. The New Caledonia problem is rather special, and as it was added to my itinerary only shortly before I left the States, it was not discussed in my original field-plan. The problem is this; in Melanesia we find a number of languages which Capell, who deals in "mixed languages", would describe as having a very small Malayo-Polynesian element. That is, although the grammatical structure and a certain amount of the basic vocabulary is definitely Malayo-Polynesian - more than that, definitely pertains to one sub-group of Malayo-Polynesian - only a surprisingly small proportion of the total vocabulary can be related to known MP roots. There are very serious implications in this situation. There seem to be three possibilities. First the theory of glottochronology, which would demand that every language of the Eastern MP sub-group would have approximately the same number of cognates in the basic vocabulary with any Indonesian language as would any other Eastern MP language, may be wrong. Secondly, my classification may be wrong. However, I think I can offer some reassurance on that score. To accept the results that glottochronology would produce would require us to assume that Dempwolff's findings were the result of a colossal accumulation of coincidences, and also that the structural similarities which point to Eastern MP unity were also the product of some other process.

But there is a third possibility which could reconcile our method with glottochronology. It is the possibility that the cognates are actually there, but so disguised by changes in the sound system that we do not recognize them. This possibility needs to be investigated, and New Caledonia seems the best place since the problem is most extreme here, and because every language on the island is involved.

It will be prudent for me to warn the Committee now that I cannot guarantee much of anything from this aspect of the trip. The problem is important and should be investigated, but we do not know enough about it to predict what will be required to solve it. It may be that the MP roots are there, but that it would take a lot of structural analysis and comparison to bring many of them to light.

My rough plan of attack is to start with Wailu (Houailou), for which the most published material exists, and check on Leenhardt's work to try to establish a basis for evaluating his data. While there, I hope also to try to find out something about the morphophonemes of the language. I have been told that there is an enormous amount of "contraction" in some NCal languages. It may be that many of the forms cited by Leenhardt are compounds, and some understanding of the morphophonemic processes might bring some MP roots to light. But sound changes which are no longer revealed in the live processes of the language may also be involved. These could best be discovered by comparative work. All of these languages are said to be tonal, but in no case has the tonal system been analyzed. It seems quite possible that phonemic analyses, which would of course include the tonal system, will be necessary before we can figure out much about the sound changes.

The above is meant to sound pessimistic, because I do not want anyone to be surprised if I seem to come out with nothing much to show for the trip. In spite of all this, I think I should have a try at the problem. It is always possible that solution will be simpler than we can expect, and in any case should be able to define the problem a little better for the

about 14 months, and I do not see how it can realistically be cut much below that. In addition to the cost of living for the extra months this change also adds the cost of a new ticket, since my round the world ticket will expire at the end of a year. This, however, is not a large item. Other reasons for the increase are the return to New Caledonia, which was not included in my original plan, and the fact that a few things were estimated too low. I allowed a total of \$100. for excess baggage and have already spent \$180. Living expenses in the islands are also higher than I had anticipated. (That is certainly true in New Caledonia, and appears to be elsewhere).

I find it a little difficult to know exactly how much money to request. My first intention was to ask for \$2000. more, but that seems a little high. My figures (based on guesses in many cases, of course) indicate that I need \$4843 for the rest of the trip as planned. Of this, I have \$3159. left from the original grant. This leaves a balance of \$1684 for me to obtain. And, I believe I can do the job, as planned, on that. I suspect, even, that it tends to be a little high, and that \$1500. would do it. However, if I get a chance to go to Ugi and work with Santa Cruz informants, or if I find I need a little more time in Dutch New Guinea, a matter of two or three hundred dollars might become suddenly very important.

The arrangement which I would prefer is that you grant me an additional \$2000, with the understanding that I will return whatever remains at the end of the trip. If this is impossible, my second suggestion would be that you earmark \$2000 for this project, with \$1700 (or even \$1500) to be sent to me, and the balance to be available if I need it, without the necessity of a new decision by the Committee. The disadvantage of this would be the problem of currency conversion. If you send me a check at one of my last ports of call, I can only convert it into the local currency. If I do not need the entire sum in that currency, I might find it difficult to convert into the currency I do need. This problem can be avoided for the initial sum you send me if you send it as a bank draft before I leave Sydney the next time. With a bank draft in dollars I can buy American Express travelers' checks (in dollars) there.

You, of course, have the option of setting a lower limit than that I propose, with the consequent necessity for curtailment of some parts of the present plan. However, I cannot in conscience recommend that. It would be hard to know what to cut. The Solomons and Dutch New Guinea projects were part of the original plan. I have already reduced the Solomons project considerably, because I have gotten some material, but I still think more is required from the western Solomons. Furthermore, there is some chance of getting Santa Cruz material in Honiara, and a better chance of getting Elbert some FN Outlier material.

The New Caledonia project was not part of the original plan, but I think you will see the theoretical importance of the problem. It is already too late to do more than reduce it a little now, anyway. In terms of the job I originally set out to do, the Australian New Guinea project could be the most easily eliminated. However, there is material I would very much like to get in the general areas of Wewak, Kavieng, Rabaul, and Lae. If I can get even a fair proportion of that, I think the project would be justified on that basis alone, in view of its small cost. But, in addition, there is the consideration of the microfilming for the SPC. Actually I have hopes that the service my trip will render to the microfilming enterprise will extend far beyond the proportionally small number of microfilms I will be able to get, because I hope to locate many more, bring the attention of the missionaries more forcefully to the problem of preserving documents, and establish the practicability of field microfilming (since the SPC has workers going to all parts of the area periodically).

I enclose a break-down of expenses so far and of estimated expenses.

Sincerely,

George W. Grace.

Expenditures so far:		
Round the world ticket		\$1780.82
Sydney-Nouméa round trip ticket		182.60
tape recorder		337.36
drugs		28.50
excess baggage NY - SF		34.11
" " SF - HNL		32.88
Air freight HNL - Suva		57.00
" " Suva - Sydney		30.58
excess baggage Sydney-Nouméa		25.50
Total expenditures accounted for		<u>\$2509.35</u>

Original grant	\$6600.00
total cash remaining	3159.10
total spent so far	<u>3440.90</u>
total accounted for	2509.35
total unaccounted for	\$ 931.55 (slightly over \$10/da.)

The figure for unaccounted for expenses includes, in addition to board and lodging, a number of small transportation and equipment expenses

Estimated expenses for remainder of trip:

-Solomons, Austr. N. Guinea ticket	\$293.00
[The ticket costs ca. \$390, but I have a refund voucher made out to Qantas for \$97.80, as a result of re-routing my ticket].	
-excess baggage	300.00
-other transportation (Dutch N. Gui.)	100.00
-equipment	200.00
-Informants, etc.	400.00
-living expenses	3300.00
[figured at \$10/da. for 11 months. This is about what I have spent so far, and I will be in towns most of the time. Living costs in the islands are high, but this figure may be high].	
-new plane ticket (owing to expiry of this one after one year)	153.90
[This figure will vary depending on where the ticket expires].	
-owed for microfilming in Sydney	100.00
[This is an educated guess - the SPC had it done for me and it is not yet certain what the arrangement will be.	
Total required	<u>\$4846.90</u>
on hand	3159.10
Balance needed	<u>\$1687.80</u>

I notice now that there is a slight difference between these figures and those quoted in the body of the report. This is due to my having rounded off one or two figures in making the original computation.