



Appendix D - Outline History of the Bougainville Conflict

The Colonial Era

1884	Germany annexes north-east New Guinea and Britain takes possession of the south-east.
1888	Britain formally annexes south-east New Guinea.
1893	British Protectorate of the southern Solomon Islands established.
1899	Germany and Britain split the Solomon Islands between them - Shortlands, Choiseul and Isabel become part of British Protectorate, Buka and Bougainville part of German New Guinea.
1906	British New Guinea becomes the Territory of Papua, under Australian control.

- 1914** Australian military occupation of German New Guinea begins at Rabaul in August (Bougainville in September).
- 1920** League of Nations grants Australia a 'C' class Mandate over the former German New Guinea.
- 1942** **WWII** – Japanese occupy- when driven out amalgamation of Papua and New Guinea under Australian military administration.
- 1946** United Nations agrees to Australian trusteeship of the former Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
- 1949** United Nations grants formal approval for joint administration of Papua and New Guinea.

Mining, Exploration and Development

- 1963** CRA Exploration granted authority to prospect over area including Panguna deposit.
- 1965** Mining Warden rejects objections from local villagers and grants additional prospecting licences to CRA;
Diamond drilling begins in Panguna area;
Confrontations between villagers and geologists continue throughout the year.
- 1966** *January* - Australian Federal Minister for External Territories makes brief visit to Bougainville and tells disgruntled villagers a mine is not for their benefit but for the nation as a whole, and villagers will receive compensation but no special benefits;
Bougainvilleans at Holy Trinity Seminary, Madang, discuss secession for Bougainville;

- July* - villagers around Panguna force suspension of drilling operations, but drilling later continues under police protection.
- 1967**
- June* - Mining Agreement negotiated between CRA and Administration, including offer of 20% equity to PNG if project proceeds.
- August* - terms of Agreement incorporated in the *Mining (Bougainville Copper Agreement) Ordinance*.
- 1968**
- Mungkas* (Telei language for 'blackskin') Association founded at meeting of Bougainvilleans in Port Moresby and calls for referendum on secession.
- 1969**
- April* - CRA granted Special Mining Lease after it presents final feasibility study to Administration;
- Arawa plantation acquired compulsorily for town-site for mine and administration;
- June* - surveyors move in to work on Arawa land;
- Bougainville villagers objections to Special Mining Lease taken up by the Public Solicitor in the Australian High Court without success (case dismissed in *August*);
- July* - the micro-nationalist *Napidakoe Navitu* movement is formed as part of widespread unrest about land acquisitions for the mine, and 1,500 people attend its first meeting;
- 1970**
- Napidakoe Navitu* becomes more influential, and supports calls from various Bougainvilleans for a referendum on secession;
- Secretary to *Napidakoe Navitu* conducts an unofficial referendum on secession through the monthly *Bougainville News* which he ran (in *March* claiming to have distributed 16,000 voting papers, with over 11,000 supporting 'a complete break' with PNG);

- 1971** Construction worker labour force for mine and associated works peaks at over 10,000.
- 1972** *March* - Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs presented demand for secession by *Mungkas* Association members when attending UPNG graduation in Port Moresby;
April - commercial production begins at Panguna.
In River of Tears, US environmentalist, Richard West predicts disputes over ownership of the mine could cause civil war.
- 1973** *February* - Leo Hannett establishes Bougainville Special Political Committee (BSPC) which prepares a case for establishing a district government for Bougainville;
July - the BSPC submits demand for a District Government to the Constitutional Planning Committee;
International copper prices rise to record levels and BSL profitability soars to unexpected \$158 million.
- 1974** *January* - first meeting of the Bougainville Constituent Assembly held;
July - Bougainville Provincial Government formally established, and promised by Somare Government that it will receive the state's 95% of mine royalties;
August to October - re-negotiation of the 1967 Agreement with CRA/BCL.
- 1975** *May* - Bougainville Provincial Government votes to secede from PNG and adopts the name 'North Solomons';
July - National Constituent Assembly votes to support Somare's motion to remove all provisions on decentralisation from the independence *Constitution*;
August - Bougainville Provincial Assembly announces decision to declare independence of the Republic of North Solomons as from 1 September;

September 1st - flag of the North Solomons Republic raised in Arawa market.

The Independence Era, September 1975 to 1987

- 1975** *September 16th* - PNG attains independence;
October - Bougainville Provincial Government suspended by Parliament.
- 1976** *January* - anti-National Government riots on Bougainville;
February - negotiations begin between Bougainville and the National Government;
April - suspension of Bougainville Provincial Government revoked;
July - first election held for the Bougainville Provincial Government;
August - Bougainville Agreement signed between National Government and Bougainville leaders paves way for the *Organic Law on Provincial Government*;
December - the Parliament passes constitutional amendments providing for decentralisation;
- 1977** *April 1st* - *Organic Law on Provincial Government* comes into effect.
- 1978** Panguna Landowners' Association (PLA) organised to press BCL for increase in compensation payments.
- 1980** *July* - PLA representatives sign a new land compensation agreement with BCL, and the Road Mining Tailings Leases Trust is established under the terms of that agreement.

- 1981** Negotiations between North Solomons Provincial Government and National Government preparatory to re-negotiation of the 1974 Bougainville Copper Agreement, with the Provincial Government and local leaders demanding transfer of National Government equity, a greater share of tax revenue, an increased rate of royalty and increase in the Non-renewable Resources Fund levy;
- September* - landowner roadblock halts BCL production for some days;
- National Government rejects Provincial Government demands and re-negotiation of the 1974 Agreement never proceeds.
- 1986** BCL study on tailings disposal options results in proposal to construct a pipeline to the west coast.
- First evidence of the PLA leadership being challenged, when a new leadership - including Francis Ona - repudiates the executive.

Beginnings of the Conflict - 1988

- 1988** Landowners demonstrate in support of demand that National Government cancel the Mining Agreement with BCL.
- March*
- April* Landowners demand K10 billion compensation for past damage to land and environment, transfer of 50% of BCL profits and/or National Government tax revenues to the Provincial Government and transfer of ownership of BCL itself to Bougainvillean control within five years.
- May* *17th* - roadblock and sit-in stops mine operations for six hours;
- 26th* - landowner demands discussed at meeting of Provincial Government and National Government representatives.

- August* PLA members occupy road Mining Tailings Leases Trust offices claiming mismanagement by old PLA executive.
- Meeting held with Panguna landowners to discuss report of an environmental impact study on the Panguna mine by Applied Geology Associates - which largely refutes landowner claims of chemical pollution, soil degradation, prevalence of diseases in adjacent areas etc., leading to angry rejection by landowner leaders, Francis Ona calling it a 'whitewash', and storming out of the meeting.
- October* Francis Ona warns that landowner patience is running out.
- November* 22nd - theft of explosives from Panguna Mine magazine following police action to clear landowner roadblock.
- 25th - 27th , series of attacks on BCL property.
- December* BCL mining operations halted for several periods by explosions.
- Police riot squads brought to Bougainville from Lae and elsewhere to help contain violence.
- Raids by riot squads in Panguna area spark claims of brutality.

Expansion of the Conflict – 1989

- 1989**
- January* Violence escalates, more riot squad police flown in;
- 15th - 17th , further spate of attacks on BCL property and other targets;
- 18th - NEC decides to impose all night curfew starting 23rd January;

<i>February</i>	Government declares 'cease-fire', but Ona demands closure of BCL, and receives support from community governments.
<i>March</i>	Attacks on government and plantation buildings spread to many areas of province; NEC approves deployment of PNGDF personnel on Bougainville, and first soldiers arrive.
<i>April</i>	Exodus of plantation workers and 'squatters' begins; Deaths and injuries in clashes between 'militants' and security forces escalate.
<i>May</i>	NEC decides on additional powers for security forces; National Government and Provincial Government work on a special package of benefits for Bougainville (the 'peace package'); Namaliu Peace Agreement (PNG Gov, BRA) North Solomons Provincial Government select committee chaired by John Bika issues report proposing high level of autonomy for Bougainville; <i>25th</i> - BCL mining operations close indefinitely.
<i>June</i>	Deputy Prime Minister Diro issues statement outlawing the BRA; <i>26th</i> - state of emergency comes into effect for Bougainville;
<i>July</i>	Over 600 villagers evacuated from mountains and re-settled in "care centres".
<i>September</i>	Prime Minister Namaliu announces public ceremony to be held on 12 September where National Government, Provincial Government and landowners leaders will ratify

agreements relating to the 'peace package';

11th - Nasioi provincial government member, John Bika, murdered, and Post Courier quoted Francis Ona saying Bika had undermined support for him and for secession (Bika had played a major role in informing people about the 'peace package');

22nd - Deputy Prime Minister Diro reported to have given instructions based on NEC decision offering K200,000 reward for the capture of Francis Ona and seven named 'deputies'.

Fr Leibert Initiative (PNG, BRA, Catholic Church)

October

Public meeting of 1,500 people in Arawa in support of peace and reconciliation attended by Prime Minister, provincial premier, National Government ministers, church leaders and traditional leaders.

November

Ona rejects National Government 'peace package'.

Escalation of Violence, Withdrawal of Security Forces, BRA takes Control – 1990

1990
January

Amnesty International reports incidents of human rights abuses by security forces;

12th - state of emergency extended;

14th - PNGDF launches 'Operation Footloose' as all-out war on the BRA intended to clear the Kongara area of the BRA;

Violent clashes and casualty rates increase;

Most remaining non-Bougainvilleans leave Bougainville.

March

1st - Bougainville Ceasefire Initiative (PNG, BRA, BPG)

13th - international observers arrive to monitor security force withdrawal and surrender of weapons agreed to by

the BRA;

16th - all security forces personnel withdrawn from Bougainville.

April

BRA leaders indicate willingness to negotiate with National Government.

May

PNG Government offers greater autonomy to North Solomons and presents other new initiatives for negotiations;

National Government imposes selective embargo on supply of goods and services to Bougainville — the “blockade”;

17th - Unilateral Declaration of Independence of Republic of Bougainville issued under the name of Francis Ona, 'President'.

July

29th - talks between National Government and Bougainville delegations begin aboard HMNZS *Endeavour*.

August

5th - the Endeavour Accord signed between PNG and BRA, providing for restoration of services, but deferring decisions on Bougainville's future political status;

29th - provisional suspension of North Solomons Provincial Government by the NEC.

September

13th - PNGDF redeployed to Bougainville by NEC, restricted to Buka.

October

5th - Buka leaders sign the Kavieng Agreement, calling on the National Government to re-establish order and services in Buka.

1991*January*

17th to 24th - talks between National Government and Bougainville delegations in Honiara, result in Honiara Declaration for restoration of services.

August

1st - Joseph Kabui, former Premier and now minister in Bougainville Government, leads Bougainville delegation to hearing of UN Committee on Rights of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in Geneva, accusing the PNGDF of committing atrocities;

26th - National Government and BRA/BIG representatives meet of MV *Kris* to prepare for talks scheduled for October (which never take place).

1992*April*

Former MP for South Bougainville (and probably two or three of his supporters) executed by BRA when returning to Siwai with National Government funds intended for use in establishing South Bougainville Interim Authority.

May

PNGDF land at Torokina and Siwai at request of local leaders.

July:

17th - Pias Wingti becomes Prime Minister of PNG;

PNGDF personnel move closer to Arawa;

PNG representatives meet with BRA/BIG representative, Martin Miriori;

1993*February*

PNGDF re-captures Arawa;

April

Pan-Bougainville leaders meeting - the Bougainville Leaders Forum - held in Buka (over 600 Bougainvilleans including about 150 traditional leaders), supports

presence of security forces, says secession demands an impediment to peace, establishes North Solomons Peace Negotiating and Monitoring Committee and calls for a further meeting with BRA/BIG.

November

Amnesty International Report *Under the Barrel of a Gun: Bougainville 1991-1993* released, alleging human rights abuses by both the security forces and the BRA.

1994

January

Sir Julius Chan becomes foreign minister

February

Public discussion of government re-taking Panguna and re-opening the BCL mine.

April

Australian Parliamentary delegation visits Bougainville.

June

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sir Julius Chan, reported keen to have proposals for multi-national peacekeeping force for Bougainville discussed at Pacific Forum meeting.

Meeting between National Government officials and BIG representatives in Honiara agree on preparatory meeting between BIG and leaders of interim authorities and other Bougainville leaders to prepare for Pan-Bougainville Peace Conference (negotiations later break down).

July

Prime Minister Wingti announces removal of K200,000 price-tag on Francis Ona.

August

Operation High Speed

30th - Sir Julius Chan replaces Paias Wingti as Prime Minister.

- September* Talks in Honiara between Sir Julius and Sam Kauona result in agreement on a cease-fire, holding of a peace conference in Arawa in October, and provision of security at the conference by a South Pacific Peace-keeping Force.
- October* Arawa Peace Conference held, but senior BRA/BIG leaders fail to attend.
- North Nasioi traditional leaders and BRA commanders sign agreement with National Government representatives committing themselves to the peace process.
- November* Mirigini Charter for a New Bougainville signed between the Prime Minister and Bougainville leaders, paving the way for establishing of a Bougainville Transitional Government.
- 1995**
- March* National Executive Council exercises powers of suspended North Solomons Provincial Government to pass amendments to the North Solomons Provincial Constitution necessary to establish the Bougainville transitional Government (BTG);
- Suspension of North Solomons Provincial Government ends.
- April* BTG formally established, and Theodore Miriung, North Nasioi leader, elected Premier.
- May* *18th* - Following negotiations between the Prime Minister and the Premier, the Waigani Communique sets out agreement on amnesty for surrendering BRA and others guilty of criminal wrongdoing in the conflict, future restoration programmes etc.
- September* BRA/BIG and BIG representatives meet in Cairns.

<i>November</i>	Jerry Singirok appointed commander of PNGDF.
<i>December</i>	Further meeting in Cairns, this time under joint chairmanship of representatives of the secretaries-general of the United Nations and the Commonwealth Secretariat, attended by Kauona and Kabui, agrees on further dialogue and access for UNICEF and other health care workers.
1996	
<i>January</i>	BRA/BIG delegates returning from Cairns talks fired on by security forces near Koramira (Central Bougainville).
<i>March</i>	First contact between PNG government and Plaza 107 (leading to the contract with Sandline International). <i>21st</i> - Prime Minister announces lifting of cease-fire first agreed in September 1994.
<i>June</i>	Agreement between National Government and BTG to continue exploring various aspects of peace processes, including the scope of future autonomy for Bougainville and an extension of the term of the BTG;
<i>July</i>	Operation High-Speed II begins.
<i>August</i>	Operation High-Speed II ceases, but sporadic clashes between security forces and BRA continue, with casualties on both sides.
<i>September</i>	Killing of 10 security force personnel at Kangu Beach, South Bougainville.
<i>October</i>	Thomas Miriung assassinated

1997**The Sandline Affair***January**31st* - Written contract between Sandline and PNG*February**7th* – Mercenaries begin arriving in PNG*19th* – Downer arrives in PNG*22nd* - News Report of Sandline Engagement appears in *Weekend Australian**March**2nd* – Chan announces intent to purchase control of BCL*9th* – PM Howard meets with Chan in Sydney*16th* – *Operation Rausim Kwik* begins*17th* – Singirok calls for Chan's resignation*18th* – Singirok dismissed as Commander*20th* – Australian representatives meet with Chan

Chan announces suspension of Sandline contract and establishment of a Commission of Inquiry

21st – Sandline personnel (minus Tim Spicer) fly out of PNG.*26th* – Chan, Haiveta and Ijape step aside.*April**8th* – Spicer departs PNG after testifying at Commission of Inquiry.*May**28th* - NEC approves Peter Barter's Bougainville Peace Strategy*June**2nd* – Chan officially releases Andrew Inquiry report, claiming it clears him of blame and announces he is returning as PM

Chan loses seat in national elections

<i>July</i>	<i>10th</i> – Singirok dismissed from the PNGDF <i>22nd</i> – Skate elected PM, announces second Commission of Inquiry into Sandline (the Los Inquiry).
<i>July</i>	Burnham I (BTG, BRA, BIG)
<i>October</i>	Burnham II (PNG, BTG, BRA, BIG)
<i>November</i>	Cairns talks (PNG, BTG, BRA, BIG)
1998	
<i>January</i>	Bougainville Leader’s Meeting (PNG, BTG, BRA, BIG) Lincoln Agreement
<i>April</i>	<i>30th</i> Arawa Cease-fire Agreement
<i>October</i>	Singirok reappointed Commander of PNGDF.
1999	
<i>March</i>	<i>15th – 18th</i> – JSCFADT Delegation visit
<i>April</i>	<i>22nd</i> - Matakana and Okataina Understanding (PNG, BCA, Bougainville Resistance Forces, Leitana Council of Elders, 4 Bougainvillian National Parliamentarians and other Bougainvillian leaders)
<i>May</i>	<i>3rd -21st</i> Bougainville People’s Congress (BPC) elections held, 114 members elected, selected or appointed in line with BCA constitution
<i>June</i>	<i>4th</i> - BPC executive formed, comprising 36 members -

22 elected representatives, four Bougainville national MPs, four women, Resistance representatives and five places reserved for Ona's faction. Joseph Kabui elected President. Thomas Anis (former Bougainville Transitional Government premier) and James Tanis elected as deputies.

10th Francis Ona refuses five seats offered to the BRA on the BPC

July

Skate visits Bougainville and rules out possibility of independence but offers to consider greater level of autonomy and a referendum.

8th - Bill Skate resigns, remaining acting PM until 14th July

10th 'Hutjena Minute' signed between Skate and Kuaona

14th - Sir Mekere Morauta elected PM, assuming responsibility for Bougainville Affairs.

August

5th - Singirok suspended as Chief of the Defence Force

27th - Morauta cancels planned visit to Bougainville and transfers Bougainville portfolio to Sir Michael Somare, Foreign Minister.
