

**Agreed Principles
of Co-operation among
Independent States in Melanesia**

Signed at Port Vila on 14 March 1988.

The Governments of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and the Republic of Vanuatu, having come together as the "Melanesian Spearhead Group", do hereby agree to commit themselves to the principles of respect for, and promotion of—

Melanesian cultures, traditions and values as well as those of other indigenous communities within the three countries;

Exchange and other traditional ties which may cross international boundaries;

Links of friendship and co-operation with members of the United Nations and the South Pacific Forum, both individually and collectively;

Arrangements which facilitate regular, high-level, and wide-ranging consultations, exchanges, and co-operation among independent states in Melanesia;

National independence, and the sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and the right to non-interference in internal affairs of independent states;

Economic and technical co-operation between states, as well as exchanges between individuals and groups with common interests;

Solidarity and co-operation in accordance with shared national interests — working, where possible, through and with the objective of strengthening wider institutions of regional and international co-operation;

Independence as the inalienable right of colonial countries and peoples;


Arms control and disarmament, as well as efforts to reduce international tensions, to limit great-power rivalry, to secure human rights, and to ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes;

On the understanding that other states which wish to subscribe to these agreed principles may do so, if all previous signatory states unanimously agree, by having an authorised representative sign below on their behalf.

Done at PORT VILA, this 14TH day of MARCH in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty eight.


PALIAS WINGTI
Prime Minister
of Papua New Guinea.


EZEKIEL AIEBUVA
Prime Minister
of Solomon Islands.


WALTER LINI
Prime Minister
of Vanuatu.