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THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITYCOUNCIL - 13TH NOVEMBER, 1964RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PACIFIC STUDIESReport by the Director

Agenda Item 5.

Although the establishment of the Research School of Pacific Studies was clearly foreshadowed in the Parliamentary Debates on the establishment of the Australian National University in 1946, this School was the last of the four Research Schools to come into operation. When I was invited to assume the Directorship in 1961, I saw my objective as the establishment of a School which would achieve a broad coverage of social science disciplines with a definite and explicit regional coverage.

In 1958, a report was prepared within the School outlining the scope of future development. By this time, the Departments of Pacific History, Far Eastern History, Geography and Anthropology were firmly established. By 1961, the Department of International Relations was in existence but the question of its direction was not yet resolved. There was no department of Economics, nor was there, as had been envisaged, any unit within the School whose efforts would be directed towards expanding disciplinary studies in the Territories of Papua and New Guinea. This then is the background to the report of School activities embodied in the Annual Report of 1963.

The Department of Economics is now a strong and well-staffed Department, concentrating on the applied economics of development and trade in the South-East Asian area. It works closely with colleagues in the other Economics Departments in the Research School of Social Sciences and the School of General Studies. Recruitment over the past two years, including the appointment of a Professor and three Professorial Fellows, has succeeded in establishing the basic shaping of the Department on which future expansion can be based.

A Professor of International Relations was appointed in 1962. This Department is still having difficulty in finding staff, but under the direction of Professor Miller, it is now undertaking a detailed study of International Politics in South-East Asia including Japan, and its efforts are reflected in a growing number of students, in publications, and in public activities which are attracting favourable attention.

The New Guinea Research Unit was established in 1961 and is now wholly based in New Guinea, with the exception of a small administrative section based in Canberra. The Unit has succeeded in establishing its reputation to the extent that it is regularly consulted by the Territory Administration; it is assisting and coordinating research activities carried on by other departments and it is publishing regularly a New Guinea Research Unit Bulletin, embodying the results of this research.

The older Departments have continued with established lines of research, adapted considerably to changing demands.

The Department of Geography is firmly established in three basic fields: Human Geography, Biogeography and Geomorphology. It has been attracting students perhaps beyond its capacity to accommodate; its members have achieved wide recognition as offering one of the main sources of impetus to geographical studies in Australia.

The Department of Far Eastern History, long established in the field of Chinese studies, is attempting to develop complimentary studies in Japanese. In these efforts, it is coming up against a shortage of qualified Japanese scholars who are willing to come to Australia from their present places of work in the Far East, the United States and Europe. It has been something of a disappointment to Professor FitzGerald and myself that these efforts have not yet borne greater fruit. However, a Professorial Fellowship in Japanese is now established in the Department and it is hoped that this position will shortly be filled.

The Department of Anthropology has continued with research in social anthropology along established lines. It has, at the same time, developed a strong linguistics section which it is hoped will, within the next five years, achieve the status of a separate department of Linguistics. It has initiated research in Pre-History and it is hoped that this activity too will, by 1970, have progressed to the stage of justifying a separate department of Pre-History.

The Department of Pacific History is concentrating its research on government in the Pacific Island and nearby Asian countries, particularly on the transition from colonial status to independence.

I cannot omit the importance played in the development of the School and financial assistance received from outside sources. A grant of \$200,000 from the Ford Foundation has enabled us to undertake activities which would not have been possible in the normal framework of University budgeting. Special projects, involving the appointment of specialised staff, have been undertaken; seminars on the political and economic problems of Japan and Communism have been held and have attracted wide interest in this country and overseas.

We have been able to establish numerous informal contacts with Universities and Governments in the region and it can fairly be said that awareness of the University and the School has grown and that our staff and students have received a ready welcome. Indeed there is pressure on us to undertake more by way of formal help to universities and bodies like ECAFE than our present resources will allow.

Finally, a word on students. It has been my policy to encourage the fullest number of students which the School can handle. Recently, there has been a marked increase in the number of applications for University Scholarships tenable in the School but the general impression has been that this increase in numbers has not been matched by higher quality of the applications received. We have had, therefore, to temper our desire for extending the scholarship programme by an insistence that the highest academic standards should be preserved within the School.

J.G. CRAWFORD