

Truth and the SS

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By PATRICK CRADDOCK

TRUTH is always the first casualty in conflict, aided and abetted by half or part truth plus the blundering hands, heads and pens of the less intellectual revolutionaries. Let me introduce you to what a journalist lovingly referred to as “a shit sheet” as he placed it in my hands.

There are probably thousands of these photocopied anal documents around the Suva. Resources are required to print them in large quantities. By looking at what is happening in the Fiji Parliamentary complex, and then putting two and two together, it seems clear that the government that is held in hostage is paying for these poorly written propaganda that comprise the shit sheet portfolio.

Hundreds of these small cyclo-styled papers, perhaps thousands of them, are drifting around the city. Mine came through a contact, some come through the fax, some used to arrive by mail until the postal service itself began to become a casualty of George Speight and his unmerry men in the hooded forest of the Parliament complex in Suva. To my knowledge, none have been sent by email, perhaps for the simple reason that unless you are really computer smart, it is easy to identify where your last email came from.

As I read two of the SS sheets — what a lovely abbreviation, I came across interesting accusations. I read that at least two deceased Fiji leaders, both of whom I happened to know of died of cancer — were possibly garrotted, poisoned, shot or drowned.

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And the accusations about who got away with what money make the National Bank of Fiji scandal that happened under Rabuka fall into another perspective. I read about one man who stole \$25 million (American) too and then another \$23 million plus numerous small amounts of \$300,000 to \$500,00.

Another SS document appears to be a plan for a takeover of Fiji so that it becomes a subsidiary of an Asian country (you guess which one). The errors abound. Take for example, the organisation plan of the hierarchy involved in the takeover. It involves an airline that was different to the national carrier of the so-called take over country. So there is money wastage there?

There are interesting grammatical errors, using expressions such as “Fund the Agriculture” in this top-secret document. Oh, and there are spelling changes also too. For the word “process” read “Proccoss. The SS document unfortunately gives no cost details of the takeover or even a time frame, nor the name of one person who might be involved in this stupendous country takeover bid. Unfortunately I found out only this morning that the SS have been circulating through both the USA and Australia and are being quoted by the leader of the hooded men from the mahogany forest.

But if you come across one of the SS sheets, please don't throw it away. It could become part or even all of your thesis at university or better still it may be worth a few dollars at a Suva 2000 Millennium Hibiscus Fair. Believe me, after this insurrection you are going to need all the money you can get your hands on. And if you can't sell it, well, you know what SS means. Use it.

□ *Patrick Craddock was senior audio producer with the Media Centre at the University of the South Pacific and also associate journalism lecturer at the time George Speight staged his attempted coup. He wrote a series of satirical pieces about Fiji and Speight for Pacific Journalism Online website and other publications. This piece was written on 6 June 2000.*
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