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**TWENTY-SECOND REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea - New Caledonia 6-10 August 1990)**

COUNTRY STATEMENT - VANUATU

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COUNTRY STATEMENT - VANUATU

The Fisheries Department continues to expand during the period 1989-90. A Fisheries Training Centre was constructed in Santo to take up to 16 fishermen at one time. The Centre is also available to host fisheries officers workshops as well as hosting regional courses and meetings.

In order to consolidate the achievement and development under the Village Fisheries Development Programme (VFDP), a major Fisheries Extension Service was launched with a core administration in Port Vila and seven centres through out the country. The centres provides the essential support services required by the fishermen to maintain viable fishing operation in the islands.

Fish production in Santo increased from a mere 2 tonnes per month in 1984 to 10 tonnes and fish consumption in Luganville has more than doubled. The Government owned Fish Market in Santo had been extended and an Insulated Box Making plant was established to produce polystyrene boxes for easy transporting (air freighting) fish products to Port Vila where the Port Vila Fish Market is faced with shortage of fish due to the tough competition for fresh fish with the Restaurants and Supermarkets.

The department is carrying out a trochus stock assessment through a series of surveys in selected areas in the country. This work is considered essentially important because of the recent establishment of 3 new button blank factories in Vanuatu, making a total of 4 factories. The department continues to monitor the development of the trochus hatchery under its experimental trials for re-seeding the reefs in Port Vila. Investigations into FAD fishery and types of fishing boats are also underway.

Efforts are continuing to re-activate the South Pacific Fishing Company fishing base and so far genuine interest have been received from various fishing companies. There are 40 Taiwanese longliners licenced to fish in Vanuatu EEZ while over 400 Ni-vanuatu being recruited to fishing boats fishing in the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean. It is also expected that for the first time Vanuatu will benefit from the 85% portion of the Treaty payment under the Treaty on Fisheries with USA, as fishing in Vanuatu EEZ was reported during the second licencing period