

Strasbourg, 3 July 2000

B5-616/00

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Baroness Sarah Ludford on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the situation in Fiji and in the Solomon Islands

The European Parliament,

- A. concerned by the ethnic problems which Fiji and the Solomon Islands are facing at present;
- B. whereas Fiji's military authorities set up a new civilian government which will serve for 18 months;
- C. whereas Fijian rebels who are still holding 27 hostages in the Parliament building said they will not recognise this interim government;
- D. concerned by Mr. Speight, the rebel leader's threat, that the hostages, who include the deposed ethnic Indian Prime Minister, Mahendra Chaudhry, will be executed if the army mounts an assault to free them;
- E. appalled by alarming reports that the country has witnessed a drastic deterioration in law and order and that hundreds of innocent people have been subjected to sustained acts of rape, arson, orchestrated violence and looting;
- F. concerned by the fact that the army has already agreed to Mr. Speight's demands to oust Mr. Chaudhry and throw out the multiracial constitution;
- G. concerned by the fact that ethnic Indians were not included in the new government;
- H. shocked that many in Fiji's large Indian minority are scrambling to leave the country;

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1. appalled by the violent dispute between 2 ethnic groups in the Solomon Islands, brought about by a struggle over land rights on the main island, Guadalcanal, which has cost the lives of about 60 people in the past 18 months;

1. Calls on the Fijian military government for the immediate and unconditional release of Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry and the other MPs still being held captive, the restoration of the 1997 constitution and the democratically-elected Peoples Coalition Government;
2. Calls on the EU, if this fails, to apply immediately economic and diplomatic sanctions against Fiji and to expel Fiji from the ACP-EU Agreement;
3. demande la vérification de l'élection du Premier ministre Sogavara intervenue le 30 juin 2000;
4. Urges the warring ethnic groups in the Solomon Islands to proceed to an immediate cease-fire agreement, followed by peace talks;
5. Urges the EU to invite New Zealand and Australia to agree on a common strategy to participate in a peace-keeping mission;
6. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Member States, the ACP-EU Joint Assembly, the governments of the member states of the Commonwealth and the authorities of Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

J. E. Saverant
P.P. Baroness Saah huford

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