

Recent censuses have been taken in American Samoa (1960), Western Samoa (1961), the Cook Islands (1961) and French Polynesia (1962). The census of American Samoa indicates that the work force there actually decreased between 1950 and 1960 and that the total population remained almost stationary instead of increasing as in the projection given earlier in this paper. The emigration appears to have been to the United States, most of it probably to Hawaii. It also appears that some Western Samoans have moved into American Samoa and joined the overseas exodus to the United States of America, while others have gone direct from Western Samoa to New Zealand. McArthur¹² estimates that the numbers expected to survive for five years after 1956 in Western Samoa exceeded the numbers actually recorded in the 1961 census by some 4,000. A similar emigration to New Zealand occurred from the Cook Islands, in which the number of adult males aged 15-59 remained almost stationary between 1956 and 1961.

It seems, therefore, that outlets which already exist may continue to check the increase in the labour force of some of the smaller island groups. The removal each year of 180 Cook Island males between the ages of 15 and 59 would go far towards stabilising its labour force. About 300 such emigrants a year would do the same job in American Samoa. A similar objective could be attained for the Tongans by the emigration of 600 males a year. Western Samoa would require an annual loss of about 1,400. These are small numbers, but they leave out of account Fiji, which has over half the population of the territories under consideration. An adult male emigration of some 4,000 a year would be required to stabilise the male work force in Fiji, and over half of these would have to be Indians, a fact which would raise some difficult issues in relation to the current immigration policies of some of the possible host countries.

Altogether, the annual emigration of some 7,000 males aged 15-59 would seem likely to check future growth of the work forces of Island populations. This is probably a maximum figure because some of these can undoubtedly still be absorbed in their own territories. But more than countering this would be the very reasonable wish of adult male emigrants to take their immediate families with them, which would be likely to double the numbers of emigrants. Thus any plan to keep the work forces of these territories reasonably stable would probably mean the removal each year of some 12,000 to 14,000 persons. I shall not attempt here to lay down administrative plans by which such emigration could be carried out, and by which the emigrants could be trained for successful absorption into the economic and cultural systems of host countries.

The only way of avoiding the need for such emigration in the longer run is the widespread and rapid application of birth control. Over most of the area women still seem to be bearing an average of five and six children by the end of their reproductive lives. There are, however, some straws suggesting a slight change in the wind. As already indicated, there are some signs that the American Samoans are marrying later and having fewer children. I understand that birth control clinics, with official approval, are being established in Western Samoa. In Fiji, too, modern contraceptive practices are becoming increasingly known. The Director of Health in Fiji has reported that visits to the 23 Family Planning Clinics increased from 2,732 in 1963 to 17,079 in 1964, when 4,129 were first visits. Estimated sales of contraceptives in Fiji, including oral pills, rose in 1964 from 464 in January to 1,250 in December; 776 women were then known to be fitted with intrauterine devices and 2,300 women were sterilised in 1964; by December 1964, there were

12. McArthur, Norma, 1964, 337.