

Appendix F: Statement by George Tupou I, King of Tonga, Nuku`alofa, 3 February 1869

Know all men by these presents that I, George Tubou, King of the Friendly Islands, being at present possessed of certain islands, and lands in Fiji, the principal of which are Vanua Balavu with its neighbouring islands, and Moala, and Matuku, and whereas it has been shown to me that it is for the true interests of my Government and people and also for the true interests of the Chiefs and people of the Eastern parts of Fiji, that I should alienate from myself and the Tongan government my said Fijian possessions, in order that the Chiefs and rulers of the neighbouring parts of Fiji may establish among themselves Fijian Confederation, which shall be for the mutual good of themselves and people.

Now be it therefore known to all men by these presents that I have this day with the full consent of all my Chiefs in Parliament assembled, given, presented, and made over to Henry Ma`afu, the late Governor of the Tongan possessions in Fiji, all the aforesaid lands and dominions now owned by Ma`afu and the Tongan Government in Fiji (save and except the island of Rabi which is at present offered for sale in Sydney) for his sole use and benefit, and for the benefit of his heirs and successors forever, in order that he may, should he so choose, become one of the beforementioned chiefs of Fiji.

And further know all men that this act is done by me and the Chiefs of the Government of Tonga in good faith, and for the purpose of benefiting Fiji, and releasing the Tongan Government from a source of embarrassment and difficulty, and that from this day forth the Tongan flag is withdrawn from Ma`afu and from all lands in Fiji, where heretofore it has been hoisted.

And I hereby declare that I have this day granted to the said Henry Ma`afu all my interest and authority, and all the interest and powers of the Tongan Government in the lands and people of the heretofore named dominions of Tonga in Fiji.

And in witness of the foregoing Cession and transfers, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of my Government at Nuku`alofa, Tongatapu, on this third day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine (1869).

(sgd)

George Tubou

(sgd)

Tubou Ha`apai, Secretary Tongan Government

This text taken from *Ma`afu, prince of Tonga, chief of Fiji: The life and times of Fiji's first Tui Lau*, by John Spurway, published 2015 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.