Diplomacy and Fiji



Introduction
FY12C

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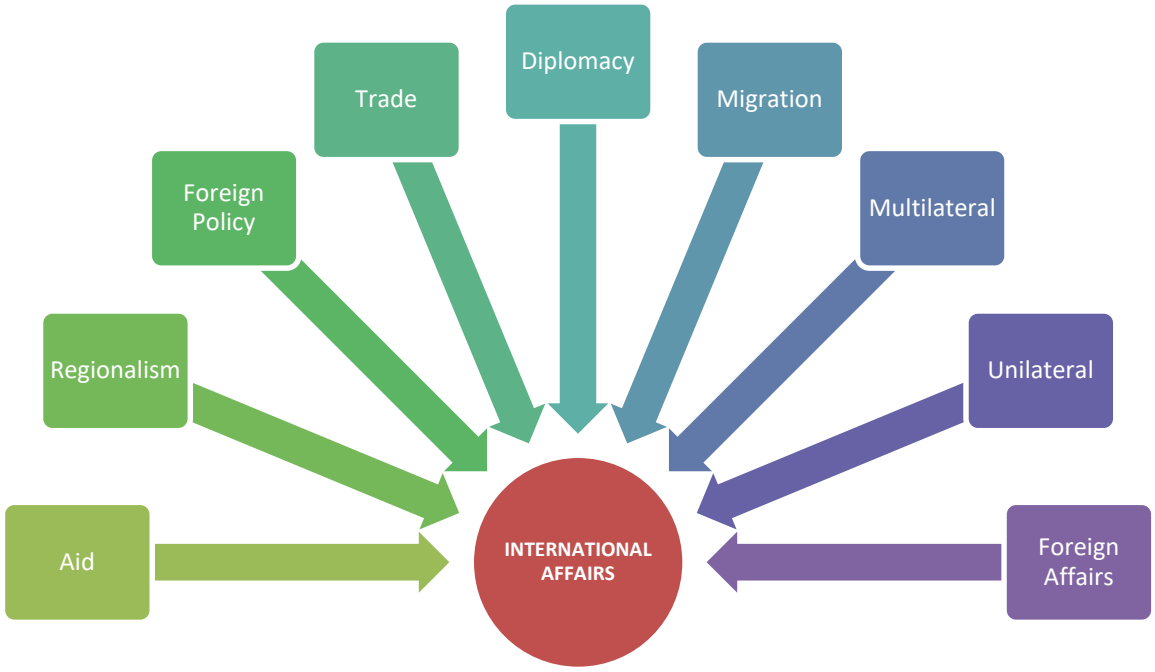
Concept map: Key concepts for study this unit



Definitions

Aid	Monies given by donor nations to help neighbours and less wealthy nations
Regionalism	The idea that Pacific island nations could have a strong voice and improved social and economic futures if they worked together in a single regional organization.
Foreign Policy	A government's formal relationship towards foreign nations
Foreign Affairs	Name given to policies, incidents, events and relationships between nations
Multilateral	Meaning relations between several nations
Unilateral	meaning relations with one other nation
Trade	Imports and exports: One of the major forms of relationship between nations
Diplomacy	The skill of making the correct decision in foreign policy; also means the actual formal and informal meetings between nations
Migration	Moving to settle in another country: One of the major forms of relationship creating links between nations

Study organizer

Before you begin this unit check the topics we will be covering, the skills you need to acquire (the objectives) and the activities you will do to help you acquire these skills.

Topic	Objectives	Activities
Unit 2: **Fiji and its regional and International Relations**	At the end of this unit you should be able to: • Identify key events in Fiji's international relations • Describe the role played by governments and the media • Identify policies that affected events • Compare propaganda and policy • Describe the role of the media	Summary of activities 1 based on reading 1 2 based on topics A and B 3 based on reading 2 4 based on topic C 5 based on reading 3

ORGANIZATION OF THE UNIT

There are seven topics spread across thirteen weeks (five lessons per week);

1 Fiji and International Relations (the introduction) (1 week)
2 Fiji and New Zealand (1 week)
3 Fiji and the two Chinas (2 weeks)
4 Fiji and Australia (2 weeks)
5 Fiji and India (1 Week)
6 Fiji and the European Union (1 week)
7 Fiji and the World – Research projects (2 weeks)

(Note: three weeks are set aside for Enrolment, Revision and Examinations)

In each topic there are skills that you will learn. These are the skills of an historian and include;

- Analysing evidence (what does a speech, document, photo, treaty, etc., include, and not include)
- Searching for additional and unusual evidence
- Identifying the motives of nations involved in regional and international affairs
- Comparison – policies in the past and present
- Chronology – being able to place events in the order in which they occurred
- Describing the context – the local, regional and global influences that affected events
- Distinguishing between policy, rhetoric and propaganda.

Introduction – Fiji's relationship with the world

Fiji is a small nation compared to some nations that belong to the United Nations – the USA has 320 million and India 1.4 billion – but it is a local giant compared to its small regional neighbours, for example, Tuvalu, Nauru and Niue with population less than 10,000 people. Fiji therefore has to deal with;

- **super-powers** from Asia, America and Europe,
- large **neighbours** such as Australia and New Zealand,
- Thirteen other large and small neighbouring nations in the Pacific.

Fiji also has to deal with giant **corporations** and international organizations that cross the whole globe, such as the World Bank, the United Nations (UN) and non-government organizations such as Red Cross, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the IRB (International Rugby Board), the World Council of Churches, and Rotary.

Fiji's relationship with other nations, nearby and faraway, and with international organizations is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also manages Fiji's **signatory** role (meaning to sign and agree to a treaty) in many international laws, treaties and conventions. Once a nation "signs up" it must follow the rules and regulations set out in these agreements. For example, in 2013, Levuka became a World Heritage site so the Fiji government is now responsible to maintain the site according to World Heritage rules. Fiji is also a signatory nation to the *International Law of the Sea*, the *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*, the *Pacific Plan* and the UN's *Millennium Development Goals* and others.

There are also informal relationships outside of government-to-government links. These include volunteer, charity, aid and friendship groups that visit Fiji to carry out small, local projects. These are not usually considered a part of Fiji's "Foreign Affairs", but they are sometimes included in Foreign Policy statements.

Fiji is also a member of two very important regional organizations – the Pacific Forum, and the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG). The meetings and policy statements of these two organizations are often the dominant topic in Fiji's role in international cooperation.

A glance at the map of the Pacific shows that Fiji does not share a land border with any other nation. This removes the possibility of conflict along a common border. One small incident did occur in 1972 when Tonga was given sovereignty over Minerva reefs, half way between Tonga and Fiji. In 2005, Fiji complained to international organizations about ownership of the waters around Minerva. In 2010 and 2011, the Fijian Navy destroyed navigation equipment installed on Minerva reef by Tonga. As Fiji is surrounded by ocean it has borders with Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and New Zealand.

Nations always act "in the national interest", meaning they try to create relationships with other nations that are friendly and beneficial to each other, to the world generally, but primarily to themselves – in Fiji's interest!!! In the Nineteenth Century, Hawaii was asking the super-powers to recognize that Hawaiians (the Kamehameha monarchy) ruled Hawaii. So they sent young princes to learn about Europe (Prince Liholiho's photography is on the cover), and delegations to meet with Prime Ministers in the powerful nations in Europe. This was an early form of diplomacy.

This unit looks at the foreign affairs, international cooperation and diverse relationships that Fiji has with its neighbours and partners at a single nation-to-nation level (called bilateral) and with all other nations (called multilateral).

READING 1

Part (a) List of major events in Fiji's foreign affairs (July 10th 2013) from the homepage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

- *Public invited to farewell soldiers to Golan Heights*
- *Fiji presents **credentials** to Nepal*
- *Fiji envoy meets Egyptian Agriculture Minister*
- *PM Bainimarama is chief guest at Solomon Independence celebrations*
- *MSG leaders sign three treaties*
- *Fijian peacekeepers to deploy to UNDOF*
- *New Caledonian Government welcomes MSG leaders*
- *Impart traditional knowledge: says Prime Minister*
- *West Papua issue in MSG agenda*
- *FLNKS commends Fiji's leadership*

Part (b) Description of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (home page, in July 2013)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation is the ministry responsible for handling the Republic of Fiji's external relations …. The ministry states that its objective is "the provision of policy advice to the Government [of Fiji] regarding the formulation and implementation of its foreign policies," and it maintains the country's various diplomatic missions based domestically in Suva, those attributed to Fiji in Canberra, Australia and Wellington, New Zealand, as well as those based internationally.

ACTIVITY 1 QUESTIONS BASED ON THE READING (a) AND (b)

1. For each location identify the region (Asia, Africa, Europe, Middle East, or Melanesia)

   Golan Heights _____
   Nepal _____
   New Caledonia _____
   Egypt _____
   Solomon Islands _____
   West Papua _____

2. What do these acronyms mean?

   MSG _____
   UNDOF _____
   FLNKS _____

3. What is the main purpose of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

4. Describe a “policy” that you know about that involves Fiji’s relationship with a foreign nation?

5. Explain the difference between “foreign affairs” and “International cooperation”

TOPIC A FIJI AND THE REGION

In 1970, Fiji was one of the first Pacific Island nations in the Pacific to gain independence. The first new nations were Western Samoa (now called Samoa) in 1962, Cook Islands in 1965 and Nauru in 1969. In 1970, these new nations decided to form a political organization to work collectively on common interests. They invited Australia and New Zealand to join as they were important and friendly neighbours. It was called the South Pacific Forum. Later it expanded as more nations became independent and new partners were admitted as members or observers. It is now called the Pacific Forum. It is managed by the Pacific Forum Secretariat.

The South Pacific Forum was formed as a protest against the rules of the biggest regional organization, called the South Pacific Commission or SPC (now called the Secretariat for the Pacific Community SPC). The South Pacific Commission was focussed on regional development in education, agriculture, trade, fishing, tourism and health. It held annual regional meetings but politics and political policies and issues were not allowed to be discussed.

At the new South Pacific Forum, new nations like Fiji, Nauru, Cook Islands and Samoa could discuss politics. Over the next fifty years, Fiji, because of its population, economy and trade, was one of the biggest nations in regional organizations including;

- Pacific Forum
- MSG
- Forum Fisheries Agency

- SPREP
- SOPAC.

But Fiji was not the dominant player. It was just one nation equally among other regional neighbours.

Fiji has taken its turn to be the head of regional organizations, such as being the “Chair” of the MSG in 2012-2013. It has often taken the lead in introducing new regional policies and being the chairperson (or host) of committees and sub-committees on special issues or topics. Fiji is also a convenient hub for airlines, shipping and communications, so many regional and international organizations are located in Fiji. Fiji has also hosted regional sporting events such as the South Pacific Games and the Festival of Pacific Arts.

TOPIC B FIJI AND THE RIM

“The rim” is an expression in regional politics. It means those nations that are not in the Pacific but do share a border that is the Pacific Ocean. In the east there is North America, and both Canada and the USA have relationships with Fiji. These links go back to the time of the British Empire and USA colonies in the Pacific (for example, the USA still has possessions in Samoa, Guam, and Hawaii.) Nations in South America only have a form of low-level diplomatic relationship with Fiji. South America’s nations (also called Latin America) mostly have close links to Spanish and Italian speaking powers in Europe.

In the western rim, in Asia, Fiji has close and regular links with Japan, South Korea, the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan (the Republic of China). These Asian Rim nations have links with Fiji through trade, and aid, and historically through migration. Some of Fiji’s small Chinese community settled in Fiji more than a hundred years ago.

In the southwest Pacific Rim, the two most important rim nations are Australia and New Zealand. They have long and close ties going back to the 1850s and 1860s. This was a close relationship before and after independence. On some issues Australia and New Zealand disagreed with Fiji, particularly during the four coups in Fiji (1987-2006). On other issues they form a “bloc” or single voice, in support of, or against, a regional or international problem, such as French Nuclear testing in the Pacific in 1985 or the military intervention (RAMSI) in the Solomon Islands in 2003.

Relationships between nations are described as diplomacy. In the concept map at the start of this unit, diplomacy was defined as;

> *“The skill of making the correct decision in foreign policy; also means the actual formal and informal meetings between nations”.*

When Fiji makes valuable, good, smart (or cunning) decisions in its relations with Rim nations it is said to be acting in a very *diplomatic* manner. Good *diplomacy* means making decisions with or about other nations that are to Fiji’s advantage or benefit.

The relationships with Rim nations are important as Fiji wants to have neighbours as friends not enemies. At the same Fiji’s diplomats work regionally to help smaller nations as a regional friend.

The relationship with Rim nations must be balanced against other relationships, for example with Europe, Africa, South Asia (India Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) and the Middle East. Diplomats must balance their time between talking with, for example, Nauru, against time spent talking with the USA and China, two superpowers and also neighbours on Fiji's Pacific Rim. Fiji's relationships are not of equal importance. It is also true that much of the time, Diplomats are occupied by reacting quickly to or responding in the media to a crisis or an incident. This often takes precedence over working slowly in the background to create or maintain a treaty, convention, memorandum or an agreement.

ACTIVITY 2 QUESTIONS BASED ON TOPICS A AND B

1. Which is most important work of diplomacy – this is your own opinion!!! (rank from first (1) to fifth (5)

   ( ) relations with near neighbours (e.g. Tonga)
   ( ) relations with the Rim nations Australia and New Zealand
   ( ) relations with Superpowers (e.g., USA and China)
   ( ) relations with Europe (e.g., European Union and Great Britain)
   ( ) relations with Asian nations

   Now, discuss your choice with the rest of the class.

2. Give the full name for these organization

   UN _____

   MSG _____

   SPC _____

   SPREP _____

   SOPAC _____

   FFA _____

3. Why was the South Pacific Forum created in 1970?

_____

_____

_____

4. Describe Fiji's role in international organizations (one sentence)

5. What is a “Rim” nation

6. In your own words describe “good diplomacy”.

READING 2 THE MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP (MSG) HOMEPAGE (JULY 2013) (NOTE, THIS DESCRIPTION WAS WRITTEN IN 2011)

Our Organisation

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) is a dynamic and rising regional organization grouping together the Republic of Fiji, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the Republic of Vanuatu and the Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS) of New Caledonia. Altogether MSG has Five Members that share similar cultural heritage and ties and are in agreement to work together for the common interests and solidarity of their people in Melanesia.

Our Population:

The region of Melanesia is home to almost 8 million people. It is also known as the most resourceful region in the South Pacific.

Our Origins

*The birth of the MSG took its origins in late 1970s-early 1980s from a visionary concept of 'Melanesian **Solidarity'** backed by the strong political desire to strive for the entire **decolonization** and freedom of Melanesian countries and territories that are still dealing with some remnants of the colonial rule in the South Pacific.*

ACTIVITY 3 QUESTIONS - INTERPRETING THE MSG HOME PAGE

1 Why does MSG describe itself as a “rising” organisation?

_____

_____

2 Do the five MSG member nations;

Yes ( ) or No ( ) speak the same language?

Yes ( ) or No ( ) have a common border (adjacent to each other)?

Yes ( ) or No ( ) fly the same flag?

Yes ( ) or No ( ) have a common military enemy

Yes ( ) or No ( ) have the same former colonial power

3 Define the word “solidarity”.

_____

4 Write a sentence about the MSG using the word ‘solidarity”.

_____

_____

5 What are the major economic resources of the MSG region? List six resources.

1) _____ 4) _____

2) _____ 5) _____

3) _____ 6) _____

6 In the wider region known as Melanesia, list the two countries that are still ruled by foreign powers. (One is a member or Observer at MSG, the other is not a member)

1 _____

2 _____

TOPIC C FIJI AND THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

Fiji is not a major player in international foreign affairs. This is because Fiji is a small nation in terms of population and trade and is not located in a hot spot or critical location. In contrast, Singapore in Southeast Asia, although very small is important because it lies across many trade routes and is a financial dynamo. In Europe, Switzerland is also a small nation but is important globally in banking, and trade, and because it shares borders with France, Italy, Austria and Germany.

Fiji is in a peaceful zone in world politics. It is a long distance from contested, troublesome regions (such as some small islands in the China Sea, or the Indonesian province of West Papua) and border disputes like those between North and South Korea. Being a peaceful nation, and not crucial to world trade in oil or minerals, Fiji is therefore a "minor player" in world affairs.

Fiji does have a vote at the United Nations, and until it was expelled in 2006 it was a major member of the British Commonwealth. Fiji's leaders have also attended the "PALM" meeting hosted by Japan, and other leader's meetings hosted by the USA and China. In 2013, Fiji hosted the G77. Fiji's importance can also be judged by the world leaders who visit Fiji. Pope John-Paul II visited in 1984, Taiwan's President in 2005 and China's president Wen Jiabao in 2006, but other world leaders have not made diplomatic visits.

- The G77 *Group* is an inter-government organization that works with members of the United Nations on development issues. It began in 1964.
- The Pacific Alliance Leaders Meeting (PALM) is a meeting between the leaders of Japan and the independent nations of the Pacific. It began in 1997.

Fiji was a member of the British Commonwealth from 1970, in an organization of former British colonies concerned with trade, development, education and diplomacy with Great Britain. Fiji was suspended in 1987-1997 due to coups, and again in June 2000 to December 2001 after another coup. It was finally fully suspended after another military coup in 2006.

The CIA Fact Book entry for Fiji lists the organizations where Fiji is a member.

International organization participation:

ACP, ADB, AOSIS, Commonwealth (suspended), CP, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IRB, IOC, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, NAM, OPCW, PCA, PIF, SPARTECA (suspended), SPC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNMISS, UNMIT, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fj.html

Fiji's involvement in these organizations is not always concerned with diplomacy or the conduct of foreign affairs. Some are only related to health (eg., WHO World Health Organization) or banking and foreign loans (eg., IBRD, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) or labour and workplace conditions (eg., ILO, International labour Organization). These are all aspects of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation, but they operate quietly and in the background most of the time.

Foreign Affairs only become controversial when nations disagree on policies or try to influence another country's affairs. For example, Japan has tried to win Fiji's support in Japan's campaign to continue hunting whales, Australia tried to make sure the new head of the Pacific Forum was an Australian, Taiwan (ROC) has tried to win Fiji's support in its struggle with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Fiji tried to influence Tonga to send back a senior military officer who deserted and fled by ship across the sea to Tonga. These friendships, accusations and criticisms become headlines and media "incidents'.

ACTIVITY 4 QUESTIONS BASED ON TOPIC C

1 Which of these events would you consider to be a controversial "incident" (Write yes or no in the bracket)

( ) Fiji opens a new Embassy in Brazil

( ) Australia bans Fiji's military officers from flying to or through Australia

( ) Fiji signs the international convention on *Elimination of Discrimination against Women*

( ) Fiji is expelled from the British Commonwealth organization

( ) Fiji hosts G77 meeting

2 Is Fiji a minor or major player in international affairs? In your answer, mention two reasons for or against.

_____

_____

3 Fiji was made a member of the British Commonwealth in 1970 – why?

_____

_____

4 What do these acronyms in the CIA Fact Book stand for?

IMF _____

ADB _____

UNESCO _____

IOC _____

IRB _____

READING 3 FIJI AND THE NUCLEAR FREE AND INDEPENDENT (NFIP) MOVEMENT REPORT OF THE 8TH CONFERENCE, 1999

"Warmest greetings from the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC) the secretariat of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific movement, based in Suva, Fiji Islands. From 20-24 September 1999,over ll0 delegates and observers from 28 countries and territories around the Pacific came together for the 8th nuclear free and independent Pacific conference at Arue, Tahiti, Te Aomaohi (French Polynesia). The official delegates were joined by international observers, secretariat staff and scores of visitors and supporters from around Tahiti, in the shadow of Mount Erima, on the shores of Matavai Bay. Since1975, the nuclear free and independent Pacific movement has met in conference, bringing together peoples' representatives from around the Pacific region, indigenous people's organizations, Church, trade union and peace activists; environmentalists; and movements for sovereignty and self-determination. The first nuclear free Pacific conference was held at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji in 1975.

Source: Report of the 8th NFIP Conference, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Suva, 1999, p.6

ACTIVITY 5 BASED ON READING 3 (NFIP REPORT)

1 List the nine (9) organizations and interest groups who attended the NFIP conference in Tahiti.

1 _____ 6 _____

2 _____ 7 _____

3 _____ 8 _____

4 _____ 9 _____

5 _____

2 What role did Fiji play in this international campaign?

_____

_____

_____

_____

CONCLUSION: ISOLATION, NEIGHBOURHOOD, AND WORLD RECOGNITION

Fiji might appear on the map of the world to be separate as an island nation from its neighbours, and a long distance from Europe, the USA and other hot spots.

However, Fiji is an equal partner along with a hundred other smaller nations in dozens of big and small organizations. Fiji has relationships with other nations that range from close, regular regional contact, to relationships based only on aid and trade, being the "Chair" and host, being a donor nation and recipient nation and being an expelled ex-member of a large international organization. Diplomats move through these relationships with careful planning and always with consideration of what Fiji will gain from the relationship. Foreign Affairs and diplomacy are always about each country's own national interest, even when it is called a joint-policy, a shared-mission or a global effort.

In International arena, Fiji is sometimes a leader and initiator and sometimes a silent partner and not noticed at all. A test is to ask how many other nations have an Embassy or High Commission or Trade Office in Fiji. Then ask, in which other nations does Fiji have an embassy and what is the main purpose of the relationship between Fiji and this other nation? Fiji's villages and small towns may seem a long way from the high-level negotiations in New York, Beijing, Geneva and Paris but today, Fiji is certainly a part of this regional and global network.

GLOSSARY

Aid	Monies given by donor nations to help neighbours and less wealthy nations
Corporation	A huge business or company, often present in many nations, worldwide
Credentials	The papers a diplomats presents when they serve in a foreign nation
Decolonization	the gaining of independence from a colonial power
Diplomacy	**(i)** the skill of making the correct decision in foreign policy **(ii)** the actual formal and informal meetings between nations
Diplomat	Person who conducts meetings with other nations
Diplomatic	The correct or most advantageous decision for your nation
Foreign Policy	A government's formal relationship towards foreign nations
Foreign Affairs	Name given to incidents, events and relationships between nations
Migration	Moving to settle in another country: One of the major forms of relationship creating links between nations
Multilateral	Relations between several nations
Regionalism	The idea that Pacific island nations could have a strong voice and improved social and economic futures if they worked together in a single regional organization.
Remnant	Anything that remains (for example, a country that is still under colonial rule)

Rim	Nations on the border of the Pacific Ocean
Signatory	To sign and agree to a treaty
Solidarity	Common action, support and friendship between nations (usually on a single issue)
Superpower	A rich, powerful and most influential nation.
Trade	Imports and exports: One of the major forms of relationship between nations
Unilateral	Relations with one other nation

End of Unit Question

- Describe the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Typical Exam Questions

- Why does Fiji participate with and engage in discussions with other nations?

Further activities

1 Check the latest home page of the following organisation;

   - SPC
   - Pacific Forum
   - MSG
   - Pacific Plan

2 Watch a foreign affairs program on TV – look for the key problem/issue and the evidence offered to support the presenter's view
3 Read the Fiji Times "World News" section for ten days. List all incidents covered and make a summary to show which region gets the most coverage.

Resources

CIA Fact Book website at
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
Fiji, Ministry of Foreign Affairs website at
www.**foreignaffairs**.gov.fj
Daily newspapers; *Fiji Times* world news section
http://www.fijitimes.com/section.aspx?s=world
Pacific Islands report, East-West Centre, Hawaii, daily at
http://pidp.org/pireport/index.htm
Radio Australia, ABC "Pacific Beat" daily report at
http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacific/
Pacific Scoop news, Auckland University of technology, at
http://pacific.scoop.co.nz/

CHECKLIST

Answer yes or No.

1. Are you able to describe what foreign affairs are about?

☐ Yes	☐ No

2. Are you able to describe the different levels of international diplomatic activity?

☐ Yes	☐ No

3. Can you identify the main role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

☐ Yes	☐ No

4. Could you distinguish between major and minor concerns in Fiji's international relationships?

☐ Yes	☐ No

5. Are you able to describe why Fiji engages with the Rim nations?

☐ Yes	☐ No

If you have checked **yes** for all these questions, you may proceed to the next Unit. If not, go back and revise what you have studied.