Levine & Vasilić, 1985

The management of property rights by the New Zealand Government...

...in the context of the government's overall approach to land management...
(presided over by a European Magistrate), and in 1865 the basis of the present-day Maori Land Court was instituted. Its purposes were to: define Maori proprietary rights; transform Maori customary title into a legally usable format; assist in dealings in Maori lands; aid in the peaceful settlement of the colony.

There are additional components to the administrative superstructure of contemporary Maoridom. These include the Maori Land Board, not well known to many New Zealanders but of great importance to the Maori people. In 1866 legislation was enacted intended to avoid further loss by Maoris of their land. A Commission established five years later recommended (among other things) that the management of Maori lands be delegated to a Native Land Board under the direction of Maori Committees representing the owners. Despite much delay, in 1900 the Maori Land Council was established, as the antecedent of the present-day Maori Land Boards constituted originally in 1905.

Various Maori properties were administered by the Public Trust Office until the enactment of the Maori Trustee Act in 1920. Under this, the Maori Trust Office came into existence a year later as a separate Department to manage Maori Reserves and Estates. The accumulated funds from this administration were separated in this manner from other Public Trust funds and provision was made for the Maori Trust Office to provide loans to Maoris to finance farming and other activities. In 1934, the Maori Trust Office was amalgamated with the Native Department. This provides the basis for the present-day situation, where the permanent head of the Maori Affairs Department, has held the position of Maori Trustee as well. In this manner, the Secretary administers not merely the funds provided to the Maori Affairs Department by Parliament's annual vote, but as well the funds earned by the Department's management of Maori lands held in trust by it.

The management of Maori affairs by Government has always involved a range of functions. The particular responsibilities of individuals and agencies may alter over time, but there has been a remarkable continuity of problems and services. Maori-Pakeha problems are perennial, and so the institutions designed to deal with them have a long lifespan too. From time to time, particular responsibilities became transferred from one agency to another, as a result of new Government policies or a change in the nature or definition of a problem. The Department of Maori Affairs in particular has conducted a wide range of programmes and services in its history. These are managed by separate divisions with the Department. At one time, under the Native Trust Ordinance of 1844, the Department had responsibilities in the area of Maori education. These were transferred to the Education Department in July 1879. The legacy of this administrative change is still with us, for despite its interests in Maori language and education, the Secretary of the Department of Maori Affairs does not have direct responsibility for Maori education. The administrative approaches taken by Government, towards the management of Maori land, education, and other social services, may make a major impact not merely on the effectiveness of particular policies but on the attitudes of Maoris towards the agencies and administrators defined as responsible.

The Department of Maori Affairs in the 1980s has a very active Social Services Division, an outgrowth of the Maori Welfare Division which in turn was established following the work of the Maori War Effort Organization in the Second World War. Today the Department engages in the following range of activities: social work; housing finance and advisory services; pre-apprenticeship training for trades; subsidy for marae improvements; promotion of Maori art and culture; farming finance and advisory services. It also plays an important role in advising private organizations, and the Government, on matters affecting Maoris and Pacific Islanders, and has a major role in matters relating to Maori land and development (including, but not confined to, work related to Maori lands held in trust).

Closely associated with the Department are various statutory bodies. The Maori Land Board superintends the Department's activities in housing and land development and establishes policy for the investment of funds held by the Maori Trustee. The Maori Purposes Fund Board (established in 1935) administers a fund which comes from Maori sources, including annual grants from the profits of the Maori Trustee. The Board may support projects in housing, education, social and economic advancement but has more recently been active in sponsoring cultural activities. The Maori Education Foundation is not controlled by the Department of Maori Affairs but is attached to the Department of Education. It was established in 1961 to further the education of Maori children from pre-school to tertiary level.

Perhaps the most visible component of the Maori Affairs Department is the Social Services Division. This Division employs over 100 community officers in various branches around New Zealand. These officers advise the Department on matters affecting the welfare of the Maori community, and have close contact with individuals, families and groups who may benefit from their advice or from Departmental support. The Division also operates a subsidy scheme for Maori tribal committees, which may be utilized to support construction of buildings on marae.

The Maori Land Court has augmented its initial functions in response to various enactments relating to the development of Maori
 actions and appropriate resources to achieve them.

The Conference recognizes these objective and places support in

- to address the economic situations and weaknesses of Maori people

- to examine the economic situation of New Zealand as a whole

- to maintain the economic development of the conference

The Final Conference was attended by the following:}

Sir George Stanley Laughton, J.P.

Walter Max Willi, District Court Judge

Edward Teachter, Deputy Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court

Report filed by:

Appendix Four: Main Economic Development
Summit Conference 1984 — Final Conference

The Economic Development

Summit Conference 1984 — Final Conference