

Pof. Ed.

Yap Pushing Political Education

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YAP (MNS) – A concerted effort at political education is under way in Yap District, involving elected political leaders, administration officials and members of Yap's religious community.

Thus far, about three fourths of the population of Yap Island proper have been contacted by or have participated in the program.

For the past three months the members of the Yap delegation to the Congress of Micronesia have been devoting most of their time to the political education effort. Nearly all schools, religious groups and municipalities on Yap Island have been visited for the purpose of giving the people a broader comprehension of the various political issues facing Micronesia today. The program was initiated by the Yap Catholic Mission at the request of the Bishop of the Carolines. Sens. Petrus Tun and John Mangefel and Rep. Luke Tman, as well as Yap delegation administrative assistant Martin Yinug, are taking part.

Accompanying the delegation to the various meetings are officials from the Catholic church and Rev. John F.X. Condon. Assisting the group in their weekly efforts are the district public information office and personnel of radio station WSZA, who record most of the meetings for later broadcast. A second special series of political education radio programs is also now in progress, a joint effort of the Yap congressional delegation, the Catholic mission and the public affairs department.

The program series deals with discussions of the various future status possibilities, such as free association with the U.S., commonwealth, independence, or U.S. territorial status. The first series of such programs was prepared and aired over WSZA last year.

Reports say Yap's congress members feel that in order for a plebiscite on the future status of Micronesia to be meaningful, the people must have full information.

"If there is going to be a plebiscite the people themselves must determine their future, not those Yapese who are elected or traditional leaders," Tun and Mangefel have declared.

Plans are now being made to extend the political education meetings to other islands in the district and to translate the radio series into the Ulithian and Woleaian language for the people of the outer islands.

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