

Japanese Diving For Remains On Truk Sub

Salvage operations are currently underway to recover the remains of a submarine in the sinking of a submarine in the Truk lagoon during World War II. The project is expected to be completed by the middle of the month. The principal direction of a salvage company engaged by the government of Japan.

The first time the Japanese government has been permitted to recover war dead from a sunken ship in Truk, although numerous missions sponsored by Japan's Health Ministry have visited various Micronesian islands to exhume graves on land and return the remains to Japan.

District Administrator Ivan Sablan explained this week that his district is fully with the current project, even though the general policy of the Truk government is to leave the sunken ships of the lagoon undisturbed.

He added that, for humanitarian reasons more than anything else, we would cooperate to the maximum extent possible," Sablan explained, "by allowing the

government of Japan to recover these human remains from the submarine."

The Truk District said he hopes the resulting publicity will make the general public aware of the Truk lagoon, the wrecked ships and their significance, as well as the people aware of Truk's efforts to preserve the wrecks as an historical monument. For the Japanese, however, the recovery of the remains is of major importance. Hirohito Fukuda of the Fukuda Salvage Co. said he has six of Japan's top divers working on the project. They are assisted by four Micronesian divers.

"This is a very interesting operation for our company and very interesting to the District, as well as for the Japanese government." "Our divers are diving six times a day, and we are doing our best to recover human remains. We've found skulls and many bones so far and we intend to begin taking out mud from the room soon."

The submarine, which carried the numerical designation IGO-169, was one of the class "A" type of Japanese subs that participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor.