

Deputy, Luii Set Palau Priorities

PALAU (MNS) — Palau Deputy District Administrator Haruo T. Remeliik delivered the annual "State of the District Message" at the Palau Legislature building in Koror this year.

The deputy DistAd. spoke on socio-economic and political matters that must be given special consideration by the Palau Legislature as well as the people of Palau.

In the area of political development, the Deputy DistAd said in part: "We are now facing the most important question which will affect our daily lives and that is our future political status." With this, Remeliik urged the members of the legislature to see to it that "our entire government will ensure peace, justice, unity and brotherhood among each and everyone of us." He went on to state that with the effort put out by administration and the Select Committee on Development of the legislature, it is hoped that when a plebiscite takes place, everyone will have been educated politically.

Turning to the area of socio-economic development, the Deputy DistAd informed the lawmakers that because of inadequate schedule of functions, the Palau Legislature is unable to function to the fullest due to lack of revenue to run its own activities. "However," Remeliik added, "the legislature should set the priority lists of measures to be considered so that the projects can be accomplished."

Among other problems that the Deputy DistAd dealt with were the prices of goods that are constantly rising and the seriousness of drinking alcoholic beverages, especially among young people. In line with this, the Deputy DistAd informed the lawmakers that a measure will be presented by the administration which will pave the way for the establishment of a youth services program in Palau District.

Concluding his remarks, Remeliik made it clear

that, "although we come from different walks of life, having different expectations of life, it is very important that we should jointly work together for our islands."

Legislature Speaker Itehang Luii also spoke to express his views on what he calls problems of development and change which are inevitable to any developing society.

He pointed out four things which have occurred to which the legislature must give its utmost attention. First, he expressed his concern over the fact that as of April 1, the ban on foreign investment has been lifted. "It is good for us because foreign businesses will bring in more money into our economy," Luii pointed out. "But," he cautioned, "we should deliberate on how best to control and regulate foreign investment to the best interest of the people of Palau."

Second, he said, the course of action which the people of the Marianas and the Marshalls have taken make the possibility of unity in Micronesia more remote. He went on to urge his colleagues to seriously consider this question of unity during the session. He suggested that Palau District should reevaluate their position with respect to their relation with the other districts.

Third, he raised a question regarding the present program of education for self-government prepared by the administration. He asked whether the program is providing information which he needed in order for the people to be able not only to vote intelligently on the question of political status but to be able to know of the problems, benefits, as well as the responsibilities that are incident to each type of political status available to the people.

The legislature speaker concluded his remarks saying, "we should consider seriously the utility of the Congress of Micronesia as it is now constituted."