

MYAZOE, JOB ANALYST FOR THE TRAINING DIVISION.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE WORKSHOP WILL DISCUSS MAN POWER NEEDS PLANNING AND EVALUATION AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE LABOR PROGRAM.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WILL ALSO ATTEND THE ONE-WEEK WORKSHOP.

~~(ALL USER PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SALII SPEAKS ON CON COND)~~

SAIPAN, MAY 2, 1974---(CONGRESS RELEASE)---"IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO DESIGN A CONSTITUTION THAT WILL NOT ONLY SAFEGUARD DISTRICT INTERESTS, BUT ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE AND BENEFICIAL TO THEM AND TO MICRONESIA AS A UNITED NATION," ACCORDING TO SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS.

SENATOR SALII WAS INTERVIEWED LAST WEEK ON SAIPAN BY CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PUBLIC INFORMATION INTERN JOHN DEL ROSAPIO AT THE MICRONESIA PBROADCAST CENTER. THE INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED TO ASSIST THE CURRENT PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT (ESG) IN CLARIFYING SOME OF THE ISSUES CONCERNING THE UPCOMING ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION AND THE CONVENTION ITSELF.

SALII DELIVERED A PREPARED OPENING STATEMENT IN WHICH HE STATED: "NO EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF THESE ISLANDS EVEN BEGINS TO APPROXIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS EVENT." SALII WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE ONLY OTHER TWO EVENTS WHICH WILL TAKE AFTER THE CONVENTION WHICH WILL BE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE WILL BE THE "REFERENDUM" TO APPROVE THE CONSTITUTION ITSELF AND A PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW POLITICAL STATUS FOR MICRONESIA.

THE SENATOR STATED THAT IN DRAFTING THE CONSTITUTION, THE DELEGATES WILL BE BUILDING THE NEW MICRONESIAN STATE AND SETTING UP ITS FORM OF GOVERNMENT. SALII SAID THE CONVENTION WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO A VERY FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE: MICRONESIAN UNITY.

THE SENATOR MENTIONED THAT IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME PEOPLE THAT IF ALL THE DISTRICTS ARE TO REMAIN WITHIN THE NEW MICRONESIAN STATE AND SUBSCRIBE TO ITS CONSTITUTION, A GOOD DEAL OF THE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE RESERVED TO THE DISTRICTS. HE SAID...-A LOOSE FEDERATION IS WHAT THIS FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS OFTEN REFERRED TO."

"BECAUSE OF THE MANY PROBLEMS FACING US TODAY ON THE QUESTION OF UNITY," SALII CONTINUED, "PROBLEMS OVER CONTROL OF LAND; OVER REVENUE-SHARING AND ON SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, THE SUGGESTION FOR A LOOSE FEDERATION BETWEEN THE DISTRICTS ON MATTERS STRICTLY OR PREDOMINANTLY INTERNAL TO THE DISTRICTS, DESERVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY ALL OF US." HE ALSO STATED THAT IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT IF ANY DISTRICT WISHES TO STAY OUT OF THE NEW MICRONESIAN NATION, NO MATTER HOW THE CONSTITUTION IS STRUCTURED, "WE MUST BE PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE THAT SITUATION."

SALII SAID, "IF ANY DISTRICT IS SOMEHOW FORCED TO SUBSCRIBE TO A CONSTITUTION THAT IT DOES TRULY AND FULLY ACCEPT, WE SHALL HAVE BUILT INTO THE NEW NATION A TIME-BOMB THAT WILL EXPLODE ANY DAY AND ABORT OUR NEW CREATION." HE CONTINUED THAT THE CONSTITUTION THE DELEGATES PUT TOGETHER MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO MOST IF NOT ALL THE DISTRICTS. HE NOTED THAT NO DISTRICT NEEDS TO BE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONVENTION FOR FEAR THAT ITS PARTICIPATION WILL FOREVER BIND IT TO THE RESULT OF THE CONVENTION.

SENATOR SALII SAID THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WILL GO TO THE VOTERS OF EACH DISTRICT FOR APPROVAL. HE SAID: "WE CAN ALL REST ASSURED THAT IF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE VOTERS IN ANY GIVEN DISTRICT REJECT THE CONSTITUTION, IT WILL BE FOOLHARDY FOR ANYONE ELSE TO TRY TO IMPOSE THE CONSTITUTION

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ACCORDING TO SALII, NO MATTER HOW MUCH IS SAID IN ADVANCE ABOUT THE FINAL FORM THE CONSTITUTION WILL TAKE, OR WHETHER THE NEW NATION WILL INCLUDE ALL THE SIX DISTRICTS OR ONLY SOME OF THEM. THESE QUESTIONS CAN ONLY BE APPROPRIATELY ANSWERED IN THE CONVENTION ITSELF AND ONLY THE DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION WILL BE SPEAKING FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS. HE SAID: "THE TIME TO DECIDE, AND TO LET OUR DESIRES BE KNOWN TO OUR FELLOW MICRONESIANS, WHETHER WE WANT TO BE PART OF A NEW NATION OR NOT, WILL BE AT THE CONVENTION."

CONCERNING THE CHOOSING OF DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION, THE SENATOR NOTED THAT IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO KEEP ONE THING IN MIND--THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ELECTING SOMEONE "TO REPRESENT US IN A LEGISLATIVE BODY AND SELECTING SOMEONE TO REPRESENT A COMMUNITY IN A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION." HE SAID THAT A CONGRESSMAN OR LEGISLATOR IN REPRESENTING THE INTEREST OF HIS CONSTITUENTS OFTEN RELIES ON HIS OWN JUDGEMENT. HE SAID THE PEOPLE HAVE ENOUGH SAFEGUARDS SO THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO LET THEIR CONGRESSMEN USE THEIR OWN GOOD SENSE MUCH OF THE TIME IN LOOKING AFTER THEIR INTERESTS OR, THEY COULD ALWAYS REPLACE THEM IN THE NEXT ELECTION.

SENATOR SALII EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE IN A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. HE SAID THE DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IF THEIR PERSONAL DESIRES AND OPINIONS DIFFER FROM THOSE HELD BY THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THEY REPRESENT, HE OR SHE MUST BE WILLING AND ABLE TO DEFER TO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE.

SALII NOTED THAT IT IS EXPENSIVE TO PREPARE A DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND THEREFORE IT MUST BE DONE "RIGHT THE FIRST TIME," AND DELEGATES MUST TAKE A SERIOUS ATTITUDE IN GOING ABOUT THE DRAFTING OF MICRONESIA'S CONSTITUTION.

THE INTERVIEW INCLUDED SEVERAL OTHER VERY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. A TAPE OF THE INTERVIEW WILL BE AIRED ON ALL DISTRICT RADIO STATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO PREPARE A TRANSCRIPT OF THE INTERVIEW WHICH WILL BE PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED AT A LATER DATE.