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contract is let. The Interior Department will be responsible for the rehabilitation, including re-planting of food crops and building of houses, which could begin while the cleanup is in progress.

The people of Enewetak, with advice from their legal counsel, the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation, are presently reviewing the draft environmental impact statement. They have 45 days to respond to it.

MARIANAS LEGISLATURE WANTS SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION

The Mariana Islands District Legislature, concluding a regular session last week, voted to adopt a resolution requesting that the Mariana Islands District be administered separately from the other districts of the Trust Territory. The resolution was adopted unanimously, and puts the legislature in opposition to the Congress of Micronesia, which during its special session this summer adopted a resolution opposing separate administration.

The separate administration of the Marianas prior to termination of the Trusteeship Agreement is seen as a possibility because separate status talks with the Marianas are nearing a conclusion that would make the Marianas a commonwealth and a permanent part of the U.S. The district resolution urges the United States "...to take all steps which are appropriate and necessary for the administration of the Mariana Islands District separate and apart from the other districts including: Terminating all of the responsibility and authority of the Congress of Micronesia respecting the affairs of the Mariana Islands District, and granting such responsibility and authority to the Mariana Islands District Legislature; terminating the participation of representatives of the Mariana Islands in the Congress of Micronesia; providing for the retention of locally raised revenues for appropriation by the district legislature; assuring maximum participation by the people of the Marianas in all aspects of local government; and establishing a separate executive authority for the Marianas."

The resolution asks that such separate administration be put into effect as soon as possible after approval of a status agreement by the people of the Marianas.

BILLS SIGNED BY HICOM

Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston signed 16 bills into law last week, all of them measures passed during the special session of the Congress of Micronesia this summer on Saipan. Most of the bills were appropriation measures, and shortly after they were signed it was pointed out by a spokesman for the HiCom's office that the Congress has appropriated more funds than it has available, running a deficit of about 1.7 million dollars.

N. Neiman Craley, Jr., Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs, said that the Congress has been operating with a deficit for several years, but that "each year it seems to get worse." He pointed out that with the passage of revenue sharing, which beginning next fiscal year will return twenty per cent of tax revenue to the district for appropriation, the Congress