

without U.S. funds," Mrs. Canba said.

She also called economic independence non-existent, citing the U.S. and its reaction to the oil crisis.

Johnson Toribiong said the U.S. has "drawn us away from self-sufficiency and toward a cash-economic dependency."

"Palau was exporting more to Japan than it was importing 20 years ago, which shows the resources of the islands and the ocean," he added.

Bordallo said, "A reduction in the material standard of living does not necessitate a reduction in the quality of life of a people."

"The present paternalistic government is dangerous to our quality of life—more and more services can result in over-population; our population-to-resources ratio is becoming increasingly larger and larger," he concluded.