

Excellent

IX. The recent Palau separatist action.

A. The situation and commentary.

*members of the*  
1. The Palauan community <sup>on September 5,</sup> including Palauan members of the Congress of Micronesia, and the Palau Legislature have recently stated that they ~~desire to separate Palau District from the other districts, entering into separate negotiations with the U.S.~~ desire that Palau ~~be~~ enter into separate negotiations with the U.S. leading to a separate political status from the other districts. This recent action may well be the reflection of internal Palauan politics since this is an election year and one of the main leaders of this recent action, Polycarp Basilius, is running against Senator Lazarus Salii for his position. It may also reflect local politics <sup>relationships between</sup> in terms of the Palau District and the Congress of Micronesia. There is current maneuvering over the selection of the site for the future capital of Micronesia and the Palauans have warned of the imminent secession of Palau if it is not chosen as the capital site. The Congress of Micronesia on February 17 (the same day as the expression of Palauan separatism) deferred action on a bill making another district, Ponape, the future site for the capital. The important factor to consider is that the people of ~~Palau~~ Palau have been given two opportunities within the past year to vote on the issue of unity or separatism. Both times the people of Palau have voted for unity with the other districts. Their elected representatives to the Micronesian Constitutional Convention supported unity and every Palauan delegate signed the resulting proposed Micronesian Constitution.

Goal

B. U.S. position on Palau and separatism.

1. The U.S. continues to hope for and promote unity for the Carolines

and the Marshalls, including Palau - one of the districts in the Carolines. The U.S. called for the Micronesian Constitutional Convention in order to promote unity and afford the Micronesians an opportunity to accommodate their various interests. The proposed Micronesian Constitution would provide for a federation of Micronesian entities with a strong measure of local autonomy for the districts.

2. The proposed Micronesian Constitution will be put to the people in a referendum for their approval or rejection. This referendum will take place prior to any consideration of <sup>the question of</sup> separate negotiations with individual districts.

3. The U.S. does not expect to respond to different factions throughout Micronesia since in times past there have been many switches in position by varying factions on the question of unity based on internal district politics or then current political issues between the various districts.