

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 10-92

Declaring Saturday, December 5, 1992 as WORLD AIDS PREVENTION DAY in Palau

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the United Nations through a resolution has proclaimed December 1st each year as WORLD AIDS DAY; and leaving it to the countries' discretion to observe WORLD AIDS DAY on a different day as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, in observing WORLD AIDS DAY, the United Nations urged countries around the globe to conduct educational programs geared toward public awareness by stressing "Ten Points on AIDS for WORLD AIDS DAY" among which are that:

1. AIDS AND HIV.

AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is the end-stage of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV. A person infected with HIV may look healthy for many years, but he or she can still transmit the virus to someone else. In adults, AIDS takes an average of 10 years to develop. We know that HIV is transmitted in only three ways:

- a) through unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected partner
- b) through infected blood or blood products
- c) from an infected mother to her baby before, during or shortly after birth (perinatal transmission).

2. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ARE VITAL:

Until medical research finds a cure for AIDS or a vaccine to prevent infection, we must rely on changes in personal behavior to prevent the spread of HIV. Information and education are therefore vital in the fight against AIDS.

3. AIDS THREATENS US ALL:

AIDS recognizes no boundaries of race, sex, class or age. No one is immune. And no one will remain untouched in the years to come as AIDS threatens entire communities and changes the patterns of daily life for everyone.

4. SHARING THE CHALLENGE:

Because AIDS is a global problem it can only be stopped in one country if it is stopped in all countries. Working together -pooling our efforts, resources and imagination - give us the best chance of bringing the pandemic under control.

5. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

You can contribute to stopping AIDS by making sure that you understand the facts about AIDS and helping others to do the same. WORLD AIDS DAY is a special opportunity every year to focus attention on this urgent problem that affects us all, and to join forces to meet the challenge. It is marked around the world by thousands of different events designed to increase awareness, and to express solidarity and compassion. This WORLD AIDS DAY - and every day- you can join the worldwide effort TO STOP AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the PALAU NATIONAL AIDS COMMITTEE has organized a program to observe National AIDS DAY on Saturday, December 5, 1992, with a parade of floats to be judged, a live band playing AIDS awareness songs, and other activities; and

WHEREAS, said PALAU NATIONAL AIDS COMMITTEE has already launched educational and awareness programs through WSZB radio broadcast talk shows and television shows, etc.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau by the Constitution and laws of this Republic, I hereby declare and proclaim Saturday, December 5, 1992, WORLD AIDS DAY in the Republic of Palau. All national and state government employees, together with the general public in our island community irrespective of race, religion, sex, age, or national origin, are urged to observe WORLD AIDS DAY by actively participating in the programs-and activities geared to prevent AIDS and HIV and thus fulfilling community commitment of warding off this deadly disease in our tiny island Republic.

SO DECLARED, PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED this 24th day of November, 1992, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Ngiratkel Etpison
President of the Republic of Palau