

My Minister of Island Territories recently visited Western Samoa and the Cook Islands in order to assess at first hand local conditions and problems in these territories. My Government is fully conscious of our obligations to the island peoples and will continue to facilitate the progress of Western Samoa towards self-government in accordance with undertakings given to the United Nations. The necessary steps will also be taken to implement constitutional changes approved by Parliament last year in respect of the Cook Islands and Niue.

You will be asked to consider proposals concerning the registration of homes for old people, and the distribution of property in the case of simultaneous deaths.

Other miscellaneous legislative proposals to be placed before you will deal with alternatives to the present requirement regarding the dipping of sheep, the registration of motor-vehicle dealers, the revision of the Second-Hand Dealers Act 1908, the right of domicile of married women, and the recovery of money paid under a mistake of law. My Ministers also hope to place certain consolidation measures before you and a Bill revising the criminal code.

I pray that Divine guidance may attend your deliberations.