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FE:SPA:JThrasher/rab
October 17, 1962

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: October 9, 1962

SUBJECT: October 9, 1962 Meeting of the Pacific Islands Study Group

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B.H. BAMS DATE 3/5/87
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- PARTICIPANTS:
- Mr. R. M. Miller, Counselor, New Zealand Embassy
 - Mr. D. K. Humm, Second Secretary, New Zealand Embassy
 - Mr. B. G. Dexter, First Secretary, Australian Embassy
 - Mr. A. D. Campbell, Second Secretary, Australian Embassy
 - Mr. J. D. Hennings, Colonial Attache, British Embassy
 - Mr. A. Axworthy, Assistant Colonial Attache, British Embassy
 - Mr. David C. Cuthall - Deputy Director, Office of Southwest Pacific Affrs.
 - Mrs. Frances McReynolds-SPA
 - Mr. Curtis Cutter - UNP
 - Mr. Richard V. Hennes - UNP
 - Mr. Edward J. Thrasher - SPA

- FE-2 UNP-2 INTERIOR-Mr. R.F. Taitano-1 Amemb., LONDON-1
- B/S-2 BNA-2 DEF:OSD:ISA:FE-Admiral Heins-1 Amemb., PARIS-1
- SPA-3 EUR:WE-2 Amemb., CANBERRA-1 Amconsul, SUVA-1
- IO-2 INR- Amemb., WELLINGTON-1

The United States suggested a system for numbering Study Group documents. There was no dissent. New Zealand submitted a paper, "The U.N. and the South Pacific" and assigned it the number NZ-PSQ-6.

There was a general discussion of Micronesia, including the TTPI and Guam, the United States leading off with a brief summary. In essence, Guam has complete self-government except no elected governor. Some of the problems concerning Guam were said to be: the necessity to institute a district system for election to the legislature, the proposed change from an appointed to an elected governor, the desire to change the present lobby in Washington into a non-voting representative in Congress, and the almost 100 percent dependence on federal government expenditures. The possibility of union or association of Guam with the Marianas was discussed. It was thought there was no possibility of such association until a decision had been reached on the future status of all Micronesia.

The basic problems of the TTPI are 1) the geographic extent -- some 3,000,000 square miles of ocean, composed of 2,100 islands divided into 96 island groups -- 76,000 people speaking 9 languages, 2) low educational and political advancement, and 3) economic void created when 65,000 Japanese were repatriated after World War II.

The United States said that attempts at unification in Micronesia were begun with the development of self-government at the municipal level. Some four years later district congresses were set up and in Advisory Council to the Commissioner

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was established

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was established. About three years ago Standing Committees on economic, cultural and political affairs were appointed and the name of the Council was changed to Council of Micronesia which will develop into a Legislative Council. Taking an increased interest in the territory, Congress appropriated \$15 million for development in FY 1963 and authorized \$17.5 million as a budget ceiling for future years. The major problems concerning Micronesia are war damage claims, the claim of the people of Kwajalein Atoll for being displaced, and the claim of the people of Rongelap for injuries suffered in nuclear testing.

The United States said the future for the Trust Territory lies within a range of possibilities from continuation of the present status to full independence. The solution within that range will be determined by the people themselves. In a recent plebiscite held in the northern Marianas, most of the people voted for union with Guam. No desire was expressed for full independence. In the opinion of the United States, any realistic solution would probably have to contain the implication that the Trust Territory is indivisible, as any division probably would be unacceptable to the United Nations. There is a developing regional consciousness of the region among the younger generation which is replacing the old consciousness of individual islands. The Japanese still have an interest in the area, e.g. for fisheries, and some of the people look back to the days of Japanese occupation with nostalgia, tending to stress the advantages and overlook the disadvantages of Japanese rule. The extent of this Japanese appeal is an unanswered question. The United States has moved forward rapidly in bringing Micronesians into responsible positions in the Civil Service. Fisheries and tourism appear the most likely avenues of economic growth. In the past, development projects have been limited to Micronesians, but this policy is now being changed.

Australia remarked that

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The United Kingdom made a brief statement about

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Australia made

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Australia made a statement on

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The Study Group agreed to meet again Tuesday, October 30 at 2:30, Room 5524 with a meeting in early November to discuss the South Pacific Commission and 4(c) papers. In the latter part of November, Mr. Marnham of the U.K. Colonial Office may come out for Study Group meetings if sufficient advances have been made.

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