



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C. 20301

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

In reply refer to:
I-15077/63

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MICHAEL V. FORBES, SENIOR STAFF MEMBER, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: IRAN 063

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With reference to your memorandum indicating that the resident would appreciate being informed of the DON recommendation with respect to fixing the date for a plebiscite in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the public announcement thereof, the Department of Defense makes the following recommendations and comments:

[REDACTED]

Framework of the U.S. should be accomplished as soon as possible. Therefore, it is recommended that the plebiscite be held at the earliest date, but not later than 1966.

Our reasons to support this recommendation follow:

- a. In evaluating the reports of the U.N. Trusteeship Council meetings, it appears that it might be wise to expedite rather than delay the plebiscite in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
- b. The people in the Saigon District held a plebiscite in January 1962 in which approximately 90% of the voters voted for U.S. affiliation of some type. This was an uncensored expression on the part of the Saigonese for closer association with the U.S. This attitude may dissipate in several years time.
- c. From the Survey Mission Report it may be assumed that at present about 95% would vote for permanent affiliation with the U.S. If so, we should hold a plebiscite as soon as possible while this pro-U.S. attitude exists in the Trust Territory.
- d. There is apprehension that as our educational programs in the Trust Territory develop and advance, we will be exposed, administratively,

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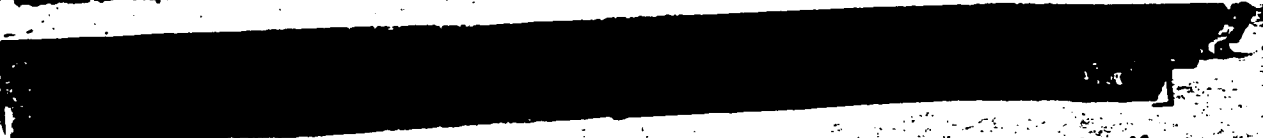
Office of United Nations
Political Affairs

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REPRODUCED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
LESS FREQUENTLY AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS.
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to more questioning and comparison by the inhabitants. Already, on the Marshall Islands, the Marshallese have now become advanced enough to exploit the administration for material gains. They have arranged to lease to the U.S. 750 acres of land on the Kwajalein atoll at \$1000 per acre. This, of course, is in addition to all the other benefits which the U.S. has provided to the islanders over the years. This causes us to believe that, at least some Micronesians are much more sophisticated toward the American way of life than is generally realized.

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Regarding the timing of the public announcement, the DCI defers to the judgment of the Departments of State and Interior.

It should be noted that the DCI would view with concern any relaxation of the entry permit for foreign nationals before the plebiscite.

The Survey Mission Report was quite comprehensive and objective, and should serve as an excellent guide in implementing the policy established in NSM 145.

SIGNED
Peter Belmont
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Copy to: State/Mr H Cleveland