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15

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Future of the Trust Territory re 1514

Problem

Past Visiting Missions and Trusteeship Councils have devoted considerable attention to political development in the ^{Trust} Territory and repeatedly urged a more rapid pace of advance. In setting forth the terms of reference for the upcoming Visiting Mission the Trusteeship Council directed the Mission "to investigate and report as fully as possible on the steps taken in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands towards the realization of the objectives set forth in Article 76 of the Charter of the United Nations, and to pay special attention to the question of the future of the Territory in the light of the relevant sections of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement, bearing in mind the provisions of relevant Trusteeship Council and General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960... ."

Although the composition of this year's Mission is unusually favorable in terms of United States interests, we expect the Mission to ~~more~~ concern itself with the political future of the Trust Territory to a greater extent than any previous Mission. The growing strength of decolonization pressures throughout the world and indications that anti-colonialist forces are being beginning to focus more of their attention on the Pacific makes this natural.

Two members of the Visiting Mission -- the United Kingdom and New Zealand -- have territories in the Pacific and are understandably interested in any United States action in the Pacific which might require an adjustment of their own plans.

The Committee of 24, which is the focal point of anti-colonialism in the United Nations, has put the Trust Territory on its list of Territories for consideration; and Liberia can ~~now~~ be expected to make a special effort to

OS-421822

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

-2-

differentiate its position from that of the Visiting Mission in an effort to avoid criticism from other African countries which will be paying much closer attention to the Trusteeship Council than before because of the Committee of 24's interest.

Ideally we should be able to inform the Visiting Mission that the United States anticipates that the inhabitants of the Trust Territory will make their decision regarding the future political status within the next five years and that in the meantime the United States is further accelerating the economic, political, and social development of the Territory. However, because the Executive has not yet completed its plans for the implementation of NSAM 145, we will not be in a position to give the Mission Members such information on the future of the territory additional to that we presented at the past session of the Trusteeship Council.

Talking Points

1. We should inform the Visiting Mission the United States anticipates that the inhabitants of the Trust Territory will make their decision regarding the future political status of the territory within a "reasonable period of time." We do not view "reasonable period of time" as meaning the distant future. The timing of the Trust Territory's expression of self-determination has not been fixed and will be largely determined by the wishes of the people of the Territory as expressed in the Council of Micronesia and by the success of the Council of Micronesia in developing a sense of community within the territory and in acting as a governing body for its widely scattered and differing peoples.

DECLASSIFIED

OS-421823

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

-3-

2. We should explain to the Mission that until we have a clearer picture of the development of the Council of Micronesia we believe it would be premature to make any definite recommendations regarding the Territory's future status.

3. We will be interested in receiving the formal and informal views of the Visiting Mission, including their assessment of the pace of development, after their return.

4. Should the question of the United States position regarding the applicability of resolution 1514 to the Trust Territory arise, we should say that the United States has explicit legal obligations under our Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations and Article 76 of the Charter for the progressive development of the Trust Territory towards self-determination government or independence. We continue to regard these obligations as legally binding upon us in our administration of the islands and consider the principles enunciated by the General Assembly in resolution 1514 consistent with our obligations.

Should some member of the Mission ask about the United States position regarding the specific applicability of paragraphs 2 and 5 of resolution 1514 to the Trust Territory, we should restate our basic position. At the 30th session of the Trusteeship Council, the United States representative said:

"The United States considered that the essential elements of resolution 1514 (IV) were applicable to the Trust Territory. It fully agreed with the provisions of paragraph 2 of that resolution and had taken immediate steps to stimulate the political development of the Territory in the direction of increased self-government with a view to giving the people of the Territory a free choice with respect to their political future. The United States Government thus considered that its policy with regard to the Trust Territory was entirely consistent with the main policy recommendations contained in resolution 1514 (IV). The United States delegation would like to point out, however, that some of

421824

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

-4-

the phraseology of that resolution, such as the use of "colonialism" and the terms "alien subjugation, domination, and exploitation", were completely inappropriate to the situation prevailing in the Trust Territory. The United States delegation would remind the Soviet Union delegation that it endorsed paragraphs 2 and 5 of resolution 1511 (XV) and that the statement was to be accepted in conjunction with the appropriate provisions of the Charter, particularly with Article 76."

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1/21/64

1/21/64

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DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

OS- 421825

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

-5-

Background

National Security Action Memorandum 115 set forth as United States policy that the Trust Territory be given a real option at the appropriate time to move into a new and lasting relationship to the United States within our political framework. The contents of the NSAM have not been discussed with foreign governments, and there has been speculation regarding United States intentions regarding the Territory.

Prior to the Mission's arrival in Washington we plan to explain privately to the United Kingdom and New Zealand representatives that we are now reviewing our policy regarding the Trust Territory and intend to consult with them as soon as this process is completed. At a later date we will need the support of these two allies in carrying out the contemplated changes in the status of the Trust Territory and intend to keep them informed of any major shifts in our policy.

Clearances:

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L/NA -

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OS- 421826