

987 RYN
03
7



Memorandum of Conversation

8

POL 19 TTPAC

DATE: January 31, 1964

SUBJECT: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI): Pending Claims and Plans for Future.

PARTICIPANTS: See Attached List

14

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Huel DATE MAR. 5 1987

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE _____

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE

RELEASE DENIED

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS NON-RELEVANT PORTIONS REMOVED

- COPIES TO:
- IO - 4
 - UNP - 4
 - FE - 4
 - L - 2
 - H - 1
 - Interior - 4
 - Defense - 2
 - S/P - 1
 - USUN - 4
 - Ambassy Tokyo - 2

31

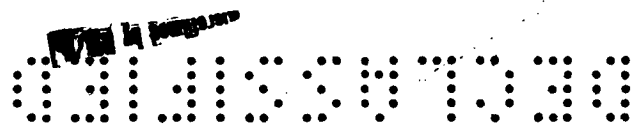
Kwajalein Claims

XN

Rongelap Claims

XN

3



XN

7

Japanese War Claims

XN

—

Saipan Plebiscite

Mr. Corner said that an element of the sacred trust of trusteeship was developing the trust territory concerned as a unit. He emphasized that the United States should discourage separatist movements in the Trust Territory. He asked why Saipan wished to join with Guam.

Mr. Benitez pointed out the United States was making a concerted effort to bring a sense of community to the Trust Territory; however, there are strong ties between the Guamanians and the Saipanese as both are Chamorros.

Mr. Cleveland indicated there are limits to what the United States can do in discouraging separatist movements.

Miss Brooks stated that the problem of separatism was not limited to the TTPI alone but had been present in most of the trust territories. She emphasized that her interest was in informing the inhabitants of the choices available and in discouraging separatist movements until all the residents were ready to make a decision on their political future.

Future Political Status of the Trust Territory

Mr. Cleveland opened the discussion with a statement for the Administering Authority. A summary of his remarks is given below:

Early in the Kennedy Administration, and partly as a result of the report of the 1961 U.N. Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory, President Kennedy directed a re-examination of our policy regarding the Territory and established a Task Force to carry out this assignment.

Without denigrating the accomplishments of previous Administrations and Congresses, the Task Force found that the United States was not doing enough by its own contemporary standards in the fields of economic and social development. A key factor restricting our activities in the past was our general attitude that we were caretakers in the Trust Territory without explicit assumptions. Although administered by Americans, the people of the Territory had no real conception of American life nor any meaningful area of articulation with the American community.

The review convinced President Kennedy that a change in our attitude was necessary. He decided that although the Micronesians were not Americans, we would give them opportunities of education and progress which were relevant to existence in the Twentieth Century.

The Kennedy decision has given new direction and pace to our activities. In giving substance to the new program we have more than doubled our expenditures in the Territory, greatly expanded the educational system, loosened previous security arrangements, and transferred administration from military to civilian control.

The question then arises where does all of this take us? and when? The United States' problem is the old dilemma of democracy and development: how to move rapidly while simultaneously training people to cope with new and modern conditions.

At the present time the United States does not have a specific long-term answer for the future of the Trust Territory nor do we have a date fixed for an expression of self-determination by the inhabitants of the Territory. What we plan to do is keep open a broad range of options for them and help them develop so they will have sensible and meaningful choices. When self-determination does come, we hope the Territory will wish to select some kind of continuing friendly relationship with the United States.

The Visiting Mission will recognize with us that what we are doing now in developing the Territory will inevitably have some influence on the ultimate outcome. For example, would a Council of Micronesia be willing to subordinate itself to being the government for a county of Hawaii? Another example is the United States Government position against separatism.

We share our dilemma with the Mission and would like the Mission's opinion on the pace of developments when it returns from [] its trip.

Mr. Corner asked if the United States decision to treat the inhabitants of the Territory as Americans did not in itself to some extent limit the choice of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory regarding their future. There was a human element in the development of the Territory which could not be ignored.

Mr. Cleveland answered that although the final outcome could be influenced by the administration's decision and actions taken now, the United States could not accept the philosophy of leaving a people in ignorance because of the contention by some that the islanders preferred that way of life.

Mr. Corner said that if the Trust Territory decided to associate itself with the United States, it would be expected in the United Nations that the provisions of Resolution 1541 would be met. 1541 provided two acceptable alternatives to independence as a result of self-determination--integration, or free association. In the case of the United States it would appear that integration for the Territory would mean statehood. Free association would mean that the Territory would have a full measure of self-government and the right to opt out of the association.

Mr. Cleveland mentioned that integration did not necessarily mean statehood and cited the case of the District of Columbia.

Miss Brooks said that she felt it was essential that the political development of the Territory should be directed toward a genuine freedom of choice.

Mr. Cleveland said this was the United States intention.

Mr. Corner said that in summary the position of the Administering Authority is:

1. the future of the Territory is still an open question even though administrative decisions by the administering authority can influence the ultimate decision of the islanders;
2. it is still too early in the constitutional development of the Territory to formulate the options for the inhabitants of the Territory; and
3. the range of options will begin from independence and could change as there is further development in the Territory.

Mr. Cleveland agreed with this general summation.

Political Developments

Mr. Corner said that the Micronesian legislature now being created will be under close scrutiny by the Trusteeship Council especially in light of past United States statements that there would be an effective legislature by 1965. He was concerned that the draft constitution now being considered reflected an unfortunate carry-over of the United States separation of powers concept in the legislature. There was a shortage of executive talent in the Territory which would be aggravated by a separation of powers. He also was concerned that the legislature seemed to have few powers. In this regard he noted that the legislature only had budgetary control of funds raised in Micronesia. Apart from UN difficulties which the lack of an effective legislature might cause, it appeared doubtful that the legislature envisaged by the constitution under review would develop into the responsible body the United States would like to see.

Miss Brooks said she did not believe the draft constitution amounted to much. She realized the draft had not been finally approved and hoped it would be changed. She particularly did not like the High Commissioner's power of veto.

Mr. Cleveland replied that using the power of the legislature as the only touchstone in gauging political development would be flying in the face of all modern political science findings. He wondered how many of the present UN members had effective legislatures. He stressed the greater importance in a lesser developed area of building a strong democratized executive. As for budgetary powers he thought that demonstration of responsible control of the funds collected by the Micronesians themselves was a prerequisite to giving further powers of this kind as well as an excellent exercise in democratic accountability.

Mr. Mangan said that, as Miss Brooks had mentioned, the draft constitution had not been approved by the Department of the Interior. Additionally the constitution was only one of many steps toward full self-government. He pointed out that there were strong feelings of conservatism among the islanders which mitigated against legislation on certain matters now by a Territory-wide body.

Mr. Corner asked if thought had been given to the possibility of the election of a Micronesian chief executive.

Mr. Cleveland answered that there was a problem in turning over the considerable U.S. resources devoted to the Territory to a locally elected chief executive at the present time. However, he foresaw progressive development towards this goal with an intermediate step being a Micronesian as the number two man.

0000000000
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Mr. Benitez said he thought the election of district administrators would precede the election of a chief executive for the territory. He said that district government has advanced to the stage where the election of district administrators was possible and that further development at the district level could give a good base for the central government.

Mr. Corner said that the idea of building up the district governments in order to lead to further development of the central government had not occurred to him.

Mr. Cleveland answered that it was natural for Americans to think in these terms because of the historical development of this country.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

0000000000

05 15 50 70 30

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PARTICIPANTS: Members of the United Nations Visiting Mission (VM)
Ambassador F. H. Corner, Permanent Representative of
New Zealand to the United Nations, Chairman of
Visiting Mission
The Honorable Chiping H. G. Kiang, Representative
of China on the Trusteeship Council
The Honorable Angie Brooks, Assistant Secretary of
State and Representative of Liberia on the Visiting
Mission
The Honorable Cecil E. King, C.M.G., United Kingdom
Minister for Trusteeship Affairs

Department of State

The Honorable Harlan Cleveland, Assistant Secretary
Elizabeth Brown, Deputy Director, Office of United
Nations Political Affairs

Department of the Interior

The Honorable John Carver, Assistant Secretary
The Honorable Robert M. Mangan, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Jose A. Benitez, Deputy High Commissioner, TTPI
Richard F. Taitano, Director, Office of Territories

United States Mission to the United Nations

Ambassador Sidney R. Yates, U.S. Representative on
the Trusteeship Council
John M. Cates, Jr., Adviser

Department of Defense

Arthur Way, International Security Affairs

Other representatives of State and Interior

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

05 15 50 70 30

05-421441