

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

58

F41

R

(C-35)

~~DDP~~
VVS 03

TO : IO - Mr. Sisco
IO - Mr. Buffum

DATE: January 20, 1966

FROM : UNP - Elizabeth Ann Brown *WAB*

SUBJECT: Future Political Status of TTPI and the U.S. Territories

You asked for a more precise definition of what would be acceptable to the international community in terms of free association of present Trust and non-self-governing territories with the United States. Debates on colonialism in the United Nations in recent years show that the associating entity must be fully and effectively internally self-governing.

To be so, the entity must have its own popularly elected executive, its own popularly elected legislature with unique authority to enact legislation relating to internal affairs of the territory, its own judiciary with exclusive jurisdiction in internal matters, and the right to determine (or alter) its internal constitution. Legislative authority must include complete control over fiscal matters, including taxation and disposition of public funds, both those obtained locally and those obtained from the sovereign state with which associated. (You will see at once how much this differs from Mr. Carver's concept of what it means to be self-governing).

The Constitution of the associated state would need to reflect a republican form of government, the same bill of rights as the U.S. Constitution, and invested articles or pre-ambular language defining the relationship with the United States.

Attributes of full independence which could acceptably be given to the sovereign partner in the association would include control of foreign affairs, control of external defense, and judicial review of a "bill of rights" section in the Constitution of the associated entity.

We believe it reasonable to accept as an operating postulate the expectation that the United States could satisfy international opinion with something less than the unilateral

REVIEWED BY *B. BOYAS* DATE *4/10/87*
RDS or XDS EXP. DATE _____
TS AUTH. REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS _____



5010-108

SECRET

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

05

423326

SECRET

- 2 -

right of the associated entity to withdraw from the relationship in favor of independence or anything else, which the Cook Islands now enjoy. A possible arrangement might be a Joint Declaration by the Congress that, if after a certain time the associated state wished to change its relationship with the United States, the President would be required to so inform the Congress in a special message containing the request of the people and government of the associated state, and that it was the sense of the Declaration that such request would receive favorable attention by the Congress.

*This will
be the
next problem
I imagine.
WHP*

DRM
IO/UNP:DRMorris:mle
1/20/66

SECRET

05 423327