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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : IO - Mr. Sisco

DATE: January 27, 1966

FROM : UNP - Elizabeth Ann Brown *WSD*

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SUBJECT: Ambassador Anderson's Testimony before the House Territorial and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on her South Pacific Trip

The O'Brien Subcommittee of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs met in executive session on January 25 and 26 to hear reports by members and others who had visited the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Guam, and American Samoa last November. Ambassador Anderson's report consisted almost verbatim of the text of her classified report, after deletion of those portions dealing specifically with the policy problem of terminating the Trusteeship Agreement in favor of direct U.S. sovereign control. She made clear that her conclusions were personal. She concluded with the statement:

"Mr. Chairman, we all know that the U.S. Government considers the Trust Territory of strategic importance to the U.S. and to our future position in the Pacific. The U.S. paid a heavy price in lives for these Pacific Islands during World War II. It is clear that with our growing involvement in the Pacific, these islands will again assume greater importance to the security of the United States. We would not want them to fall into the hands of, nor even under the influence of, another power.

"Frankly, Mr. Chairman, I think it is time the United States, and the Congress, take a very hard look at the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. We need a significant increase in the funds available to the Territory Government for the economic and social development of the human and material resources there. We need forceful leadership to develop immediately and put into operation a realistic long-range plan for the development of the Territory. And we need concerted attention to the dynamic political

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developments, because they cannot be held back. We need to show these people what America means, so that they will understand our goals and our spirit and so they will want to remain associated with the American people. If we need their land, then we need them. If we need them, as Americans we must deserve them."

Quite aside from the usual congratulatory remarks, it was apparent that Mrs. Anderson made a considerable impression and impact on the Subcommittee by her perceptiveness, her analysis and by her frankness. During questioning which kept her in the witness chair for an hour over her allotted time, she displayed a firm grasp of the subject matter and an ability to deflect provocative questions with answers which left the impression she desired.

Some of the more significant ensuing discussion went as follows:

1. Chairman Wayne Aspinall referred to Mrs. Anderson's example of American Samoa as a model of what can be done rapidly with sufficient funds and noted that he and others familiar with the territory felt the growth and development couldn't go much further. Did she really think the kind of economic development she seemed to feel was possible in the TTPI could be pressed forward along with political developments leading to more autonomy?

Mrs. Anderson replied that democracy was a real gamble. But the world we live in today does not permit us to stand still. She recalled that she had stressed first the need for firm direction, determined and enlightened leadership, and only last though not least, sufficient funds.

2. Mr. Aspinall asked if she had observed a subtle undercurrent among the Americans working for the Territorial Government of playing at their jobs rather than giving everything they had to do the job that had to be done.

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Mrs. Anderson recalled that many American officials had impressed her with their energy. Regarding others she had doubts.

3. The ranking Republican, Congressman Saylor, said he could draw no conclusion after listening to her report other than that she was highly critical of Interior, the High Commissioner and what she saw in the Trust Territory. He too believed it was not dollars alone that was needed, but chiefly dedicated qualified people who would go out there and stay with the job. Many such had gone in past, but they don't stay.

4. Congressman O'Brien noted that the treaty arrangements with the United Nations Security Council meant that there tended to be more than one boss overseeing the TTPI. We knew where we were going vis-a-vis our own three territories, but we weren't able to chart freely the course for the TTPI. The United Nations shared the responsibility. Did she know of machinery available to disengage the TTPI from the constraints of the Trusteeship Agreement? What form of future status short of independence, be it like Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico or something else, would satisfy the United Nations?

Mrs. Anderson said she thought that if the United States proposed a changed status which dealt honorably with the wishes and hopes of the Micronesian people and with its obligations to the international community under the Trusteeship Agreement, such a status would receive general approbation in the United Nations.

5. Congressman Morton, who stated he emphatically felt the Micronesians should be brought into the American body politic, asked whether Mrs. Anderson would be willing to sell such incorporation in the United Nations, whatever form it might take, or did she feel the hostility would be too great.

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Mrs. Anderson reiterated the point made to Mr. O'Brien. She added that whereas there would surely be hostility from those who always seek to embarrass us, she felt there was a preponderance of sentiment in the United Nations reflecting realism, fairness and a sense of what was appropriate in today's world.

In a brief but rapid-fire statement in the remaining ten minutes of the session, Ruth Van Cleve of Interior said she wholeheartedly agreed with Mrs. Anderson's observations and in general with her conclusions about what needed to be done. In fact, she could probably point to more problems than had the Ambassador. Interior recognized shortcomings, and they were moving to do things about them. They expected to submit a request for an increased statutory ceiling for the TTPI by March 1 and had obtained agreement from the Executive Office of the President for such request. They had last week renewed conversations with the Peace Corps to seek reversal of an earlier policy decision so that Peace Corps volunteers would be available for assignment in the TTPI. They had reached an informal agreement with the Public Health Service that PHS doctors would be provided if necessary to fill gaps in the authorized complement of M.D.'s in the TTPI. However, an increase in the complement, although sorely needed, could not be financed until more funds were available under an increased ceiling. They were housecleaning fiscal mismanagement, and were working to create a proper planning body in the TTPI administration. A second DC-4 had been purchased yesterday, and two weeks ago a CAB-FAA team had left for a survey of air-transport needs in the Territory.

Mr. O'Brien concluded by saying it looked to him like they had opened the window to cry fire, when lo and behold the fire engine was already on its way!

cc: H - Paul Miller

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