

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : IO - Mr. Popper

DATE: March 15, 1966

FROM : UNP - Elizabeth Ann Brown *EB*

EXCISE

SUBJECT: Visit of delegation from the Mariana Islands of the TTPI

The delegation consists of:

- Mayor Vicente D. Sablan of Saipan, Chairman of the Group.
- Francisco T. Palacios, Speaker of the Saipan Municipal Legislature.
- Vicente N. Santos, President of the Mariana Islands District Legislature.
- Olympio T. Borja, Member of the House of Delegates of the Congress of Micronesia, which is the Territory-wide legislative body established last year.
- William B. Nabors, Legislative Counsel to the District and Municipal Legislatures.

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Accompanying the group will be the following from Interior:

- Ruth Van Cleve, Director of the Office of Territories.
- George Milner, Officer in Charge of TTPI affairs.

The delegation asked also to meet with the United States Delegation to the United Nations, which presumably meant Ambassador Anderson. She, however, is unavailable and, in any event, met these people during her trip last fall.

They may be expected to raise the question of war damage claims against the Japanese, their desire to reintegrate with the Chamorros of Guam, their dissatisfaction with the Congress of Micronesia, and possibly the desire of some young people in the islands to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B.H. BAAS DATE 3/25

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RECOMMENDED POSITIONS:

1. War Damage Claims

The State Department is actively engaged in an effort to settle the question of claims against the Japanese by TTPI inhabitants, in a manner calculated to provide the best settlement possible for the Micronesians concerned. It should be realized, however, that the issue is severely complicated by the fact that many civilian Japanese have made similar claims for property lost when they were forced to leave the islands. The issue is a matter of negotiations between the U.S. and Japanese Governments.

2. Reintegration with Guam

You discussed this issue with the group of Guamanians who visited you last week. Our position is that it would not be appropriate to consider fragmenting the TTPI until the people of the Territory as a whole exercise self-determination. The Trusteeship Council is firmly opposed to fragmentation. The Congress of Micronesia and the efforts of the TTPI government are directed toward welding a Micronesian body politic, which together can work toward greater self-government. We do not exclude the possibility of amalgamation of the TTPI and Guam at some point, if the peoples of both areas wish it. However, any move to fragment an already sparsely populated territory into even smaller and less viable groupings would work against the development of the kind of political, economic and social system for the area which could offer some realistic promise for a meaningful future in the modern world. We believe the self-interest of the people of the Northern Marianas would be better served by vigorous cooperation with the other groupings of the TTPI in the Congress of Micronesia and otherwise, than by efforts to break away.

3. Dissatisfaction with the Congress of Micronesia

The Saipanese, in particular, were unhappy when the Congress of Micronesia was given authority to appropriate revenues obtained in the TTPI. Funds generated locally

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had hitherto been spent by the Saipan Municipal Legislature. In addition to this major point of contention, the Marianas people tend to resent being pulled down to the lowest common denominator on the basis of political equality with legislators from other districts where economic and social progress has been slower. The comments offered in (2) above apply to this problem.

4. Micronesian Enlistment in the U.S. Armed Forces

Wayne Aspinall and four other members of the House Interior Committee have introduced bills to allow TTPI inhabitants to join the U.S. Army and Air Force. We have doubts about such legislation, since the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement foresee only three uses for "volunteers" from the Trust Territory: local defense, maintenance of law and order within the territory, and as part of a US contingent organized pursuant to enforcement action by the Security Council. Although the Charter does not prohibit any other use, we could make ourselves vulnerable to charges of human exploitation and cynical disregard for the needs of the Territory were we to siphon off the scarce numbers of educated young men for military service, particularly in Southeast Asia.

The Department has not yet given its opinion on the draft legislation, and we hope that we may be able quietly to avoid its consideration this Session. I suggest you merely note any comments directed toward enlistment and express the view that perhaps educated young men would be better occupied serving their own people at home.

IO:UNP:DRM^{dey}Morris/jc

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