



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF TERRITORIES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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JUN 16 1966

Miss Elizabeth Brown
Director, Office of United Nations
Political Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Brown:

I know you are aware of the fact that at the most recent meeting of representatives of State, Defense, and Interior, on the matter of the status of the Trust Territory, Secretary Udall suggested that we turn our attention to the possibility of resolving the issue by causing the boundaries of the State of Hawaii to be expanded to include the Trust Territory. Several of us in Interior have undertaken to look into this matter, and it occurs to us that your Department may wish simultaneously to explore this possible route.

There is enclosed an extremely rough and very informal outline which I have constructed, indicating some of the questions that seem to me to be before us. Certain of the questions are being explored now by our Solicitor's Office. It is our hope that by approximately July 1, we will have produced a statement setting forth the principal procedural steps that seem to be involved.

Inasmuch as the basic issue is also of concern to your Department, I enclose this copy, with the hope that it may contribute to your own consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director

Enclosure

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Ray D. Linton

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Van Clave
6/10/66

Question: What steps need to be accomplished in order to cause the boundaries of the State of Hawaii to be expanded to include the islands of the Trust Territory?

1. At the Federal level:

(a) Is there any Constitutional or other legal requirement for action by the Federal Government (either the Congress or the President) prior to such expansion, either in connection with changing the boundaries of an existing State, or in connection with extending U.S. sovereignty over the Trust Territory?

(b) If the answer to (a) is no, do policy considerations require that the Congress act formally, before other steps are taken to accomplish this result?

(c) If the answer to (b) is yes, what kind of Congressional action should be sought?

(d) Assuming that the most pressing immediate consideration at every level will be the extent to which the Federal Government will be willing to assist Hawaii financially in assuming responsibility for the Trust Territory, what form could such assistance take? What fiscal gimmicks would be legally acceptable? Is there any way in which such gimmicks could be guaranteed, as a matter of law, to Hawaii on a perpetual basis?

2. At the State of Hawaii level:

(a) What requirements does the Constitution of Hawaii or other law of the State impose in connection with the proposed expansion of State boundaries?

(b) In addition to such legal requirements as are required to be met, what action would State leaders regard as necessary as a matter of policy at the State level to accomplish the objective?

3. At the Trust Territory level:

(a) Is a plebiscite necessary?

(b) What questions should be asked in such plebiscite?

4. At the UN level:

→ Leave this to the State Department.

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5. Procedure (dependent on answers to all of the foregoing, but something like the following order or priority would seem appropriate):

- (a) Consultations with pertinent Congressional leaders.
- (b) Consultation with pertinent representatives of the State of Hawaii.
- (c) Consultation with pertinent representatives of the Trust Territory.
- (d) Accomplishment of whatever is needed, by way of formal action, to "enable" the next steps, by the Congress and/or the President.
- (e) Accomplishment of the necessary steps in Hawaii.
- (f) The plebiscite.
- (g) Federal action to confirm the result.

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