

46

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

~~SECRET~~ <sup>NOV 19 422</sup>  
**EXCISE**

SECRET

4-10-67

TO : The Under Secretary  
THROUGH: S/S  
FROM : IO - Joseph J. Sisco

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Interior, Defense and the White House to Discuss the Political Future of the TTPI

Since preparing our own discussion paper on the TTPI's political future, we have received a new Interior paper recommending the establishment of a legislatively-controlled status commission and an early plebiscite with the objective of making the Trust Territory a non-self-governing territory of the United States similar to Guam or American Samoa. Interior's new paper does not alter our view that any commission should be established to work within broad guidelines established in advance by the Executive Branch in consultation with the Congress. More important, the non-self-governing status which Interior proposes for the TTPI would not be legally or politically acceptable in terms of our international obligation to promote the TTPI's independence or self-government. By following such a course we could be justly accused of non-fulfillment of our legal obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement, of disregarding the aims of the Trusteeship System, and of negating our long-standing policy of supporting rapid political development in the remaining non-self-governing territories.

10-1  
XR  
FOL  
19  
FAE  
TT  
UN

You may wish to begin the discussion at this afternoon's meeting by reviewing the approach outlined in the discussion paper attached under Tab A. The following talking points may be helpful in explaining our position.

1. We believe the most feasible solution to the problem of reconciling our strategic requirements with our obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement lies in a dual approach which would (a) accelerate the TTPI's economic

2

IO: UNP  
WF EATON: Jpc  
MICROFILMED BY S/S: CMS  
4/10/67

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12 year intervals; not automatically declassified  
REVIEWED BY: Hoey DATE: FEB. 25 1985

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
ROSCOR XDSNEXT. DATE 05 424660  
TS AUTH. REASON(S)  
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS   
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE IN PART  
RELEASE OFFER  
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS B1

Microfilmed for REFERENCE

SECRET

-2-

development to demonstrate the value of association with the U.S. and (b) institute a planned program leading to early internal self-government and self-determination which would permit the prompt termination of the TTPI's trusteeship status.

2. Our obligation under the Trusteeship Agreement to promote the development of Micronesians toward self-government or independence would not in the opinion of our legal advisor be fulfilled by holding a plebiscite which posed non-self-governing status as the alternative to independence. Nor would such a course be consistent with present political practices. Apart from irreconcilable critics, we doubt countries such as the UK and Australia could support us in trying to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement in this manner.

3. We are very much aware of present problems in the TTPI such as political immaturity, economic dependency and the inexperience of the Congress of Micronesia, especially in fiscal matters. Under our proposed program special efforts would be made to combat specific problems. We estimate that five years would be a reasonable time span in which to make adequate preparations provided there is a well administered comprehensive program of development. Moreover, a formal status of self-government would by no means cut the territory off from the assistance of experienced administrators.

4. We should move with deliberate speed towards a plebiscite. We disagree with Interior's contention that we must hold a plebiscite as soon as possible, i.e., within two years, in order to assure the results we wish. We believe that a plebiscite held five years from now will pose no problems for us if, as a result of our proposed programs, the people of Micronesia perceive that they are moving steadily towards self-government and economic viability.

5. While opposing Interior's proposal for a legislatively-controlled status commission, we nevertheless agree that the U.S. Congress must play a major role in the formulation and implementation of any proposed program. We favor bringing Congress into the picture after the

SECRET

OS 424661

SECRET

-3-

Executive Branch has agreed upon a course of action. At that time there would be extensive consultations with Congressional leaders to obtain their support for a concurrent resolution outlining the proposed policy. (We have drawn up a proposed concurrent resolution which is attached under Tab B.) A Presidential Commission, containing appropriate Congressional representation, would then be established to work out specific arrangements for the program agreed upon in advance by the President and Congress.

(\*) *The essence of the policy we suggest*  
Attachments: *is contained in paras 3-5 of the*  
*attached discussion paper. (104)*  
TAB A - Discussion Paper  
TAB B - Resolution

*WFE*  
IO:UNP:WFEaton:jpc  
4/10/67

Concurrence: UNP - Mr. Gleysteen  
L/UNA - Mr. Reis *WJ*

SECRET

OS 424662

SECRET

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

46

17  
7

Whereas the United States is the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands pursuant to the Trusteeship Agreement between the United States of America and the Security Council of the United Nations;

Whereas the United States, in the Trusteeship Agreement, undertook a solemn obligation to "foster the development of such political institutions as are suited to the Trust Territory" and "promote the development of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;"

Whereas the United States, in the Trusteeship Agreement, further undertook a solemn obligation to promote the economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory;

Whereas the Congress of Micronesia has petitioned the President to "establish a commission to consult the people of Micronesia, to ascertain their wishes and

SECRET

05 424667

SECRET

..2-

views, and to study and critically assess the political alternatives open to Micronesia;"

Whereas the United States is dedicated to the principle of government by consent of the governed;

Whereas, after appropriate consultations with the Congress, the President of the United States has announced plans for an intensive program to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Trust Territory;

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SEC. 1.

It is the sense of Congress that intensive efforts should be made on an urgent basis to promote political, economic, social and educational advancement in the Trust Territory and to provide for such a degree of self-government that the people of the Territory will be in a position freely to express their wishes, not later than July 4, 1972, on the future status of the Territory.

SEC. 2.

The Congress welcomes the President's decision to establish

SECRET

05 424668

SECRET

- 3 -

a Commission on the Status of the Trust Territory which will be composed of seventeen members, including eight members from the Congress of the United States, eight members appointed by the President of the United States, and an additional member to be appointed by the President, who shall serve as Chairman. The Commission should study and assess all factors bearing upon the future of the Trust Territory, should consult as appropriate with representatives of the people of Micronesia, and should submit recommendations to the Congress of the United States and to the President not later than June 30, 1968 concerning the best means to obtain the objectives and purposes set forth in Section 1.

SECRET

OS 424669

DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITHOLDING SHEET

#422 Department of State memorandum from Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs Joseph J. Sisco to the Under Secretary, dated April 10, 1967 and classified Secret. Three pages and two attachments: (A) Discussion paper dated March 22, 1967, four pages and classified Secret and (B) draft resolution, undated and classified Secret. Attachment A is an early version of the attachment to document No. 2155 which has been released to requester with one excision (B1). The covering memorandum and attachment A, which have been withheld in full, are B5 with two exceptions which are B1: paragraph No. 2 of page 2 of the covering memorandum and the second and third sentences of paragraph No. 6 of page 2 of attachment (A). Attachment B was previously released as part of document No. 2155.

Locator: 05

**424204**