

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: Ambassador Eugenie Anderson
H.E. Miss Angie Brooks (LIBERIA), Chairman,
UN Visiting Mission to T.T.P.I.

General Comments

Miss Brooks was generally enthusiastic about the trip and expressed great appreciation for the way in which the Mission was received by the High Commissioner and his staff.

She spoke warmly of High Commissioner and Mrs. Norwood, and was deeply grateful for their hospitality and kindness.

She commented on how quickly High Commissioner Norwood had familiarized himself with the problems of the Territory and the people and, in particular, she mentioned that the people already feel greatly attached to the High Commissioner, and appreciate his warm personal interest in their problems.

Japanese War Claims

Miss Brooks emphasized that everywhere that the Visiting Mission went the most insistent question of the Micronesian people related to the settlement of the war claims. She reported that the people cannot understand the failure of the US to resolve this issue, and she feels that continued delay could prejudice the generally favorable attitude of the Micronesians toward continued association with the US.

Future of the Trust Territory

Miss Brooks confirmed that again on this visit she found that there is little or no sentiment among the Micronesians for independence, but that the people do look forward to self-government and a closer association with the US. While Miss Brooks said that the people do need political education, she feels that the best way for them to learn is by assuming more responsibility.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Appropriations for the Trust Territory

Miss Brooks expressed great interest in the progress of the Appropriation Bill in Congress and the lifting of the Budget ceiling. She thought that the Trusteeship Council would be shocked if these planned increases should not go through.

Long-term Planning

Miss Brooks mentioned that, with all the money that the US has spent in Micronesia, there does not seem enough to show for it. She suggested that possibly there has not been long-term planning essential to the best use of available funds.

Nathan Report

While Miss Brooks was generally impressed by the Nathan Report, she took sharp exception to the proposal to import labor for the speedy build-up of the infrastructure, etc. She thought that to import labor would not only do economic harm but, above all, would deprive the Micronesians of essential experience and training.

Taxation

Miss Brooks expressed agreement with Mr. Posnett's recommendations that taxation by the Micronesians should be increased.