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Trusteeship Council

10/19/67R

PRESS RELEASE STATEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON AS PRESIDENT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

It is a great pleasure to convey my warmest regards and heartfelt best wishes to the Peoples and Governments of New Guinea and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands on this, the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

The United Nations Trusteeship Council usually receives reports about the TTPI and New Guinea from Visiting Missions and from the states which are responsible for the administration of the Trust Territories. It seems appropriate on this occasion to reverse the order: -- to report to you, the people of New Guinea and the TTPI, about the activities and hopes of the Council in regard to your homelands.

During the past two years, the Council heard reports of Visiting Missions to both New Guinea and the TTPI. Early this year a Mission composed of officials designated by the Governments of France, Liberia, New Zealand and the United States spent nearly two months visiting Papua and

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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New Guinea. I think it fair to say that this visiting Mission was impressed by the industry, ingenuity and dedication with which the people there are striving toward their goal of self-determination. The Council was particularly pleased that the Papua-New Guinea House of Assembly had been enlarged and that members of the Assembly were to assume added responsibilities for the administration of the Territory. Of equal importance, these changes in the administrative system were made at the suggestion of the former House of Assembly.

Although members of the Council did not have the pleasure of visiting the TTPI this year, their interest in the Pacific Islands remained high. The Council was particularly pleased to learn that the Congress of Micronesia had established a Status Commission to consider the future political alternatives available to Micronesia. Two members of this important Commission were able to be present in New York during the Council's meetings concerning Micronesia.

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During the past session, we were aided greatly by representatives of the people of New Guinea and Micronesia. Mr. Noel Levi and Mr. Simon Kaumi, from Papua-New Guinea, and Senator Issac Lauwi and Representative Jacob Sawaichi, members selected by the Congress of Micronesia, addressed the Council to describe the aspirations of their peoples. The Council was much impressed with the views of these representatives, who articulated so clearly the hopes and concerns of their own peoples.

The Council is proud of the progress which has been made toward the goal of self-determination for all Trust Territories. Only last January, Nauru became the ninth Trust Territory to achieve final self-determination and, by its own free choice, became independent. I can assure you that the Trusteeship Council will continue to show sympathetic interest in your progress and will do all in its power to assist you in your efforts. But in the last analysis it is you, the people of New Guinea and Micronesia, by your own hard work and diligence, who are most responsible for your gains and who are most entitled to be proud of your progress. I am sure that, as a result of our joint efforts, our common goals will be achieved.

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