

BX 3920

DECLASSIFIED

2216

R

JT

CONFIDENTIAL

TALKING POINTS

VI Future Political Shape of the Area

1. It is extremely difficult to assess the Pacific territories in terms of regional political development because of the vast differences in levels of political and social development and the complex framework of sovereignties.
2. The US administered territories--American Samoa, Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia)--differ among themselves in political development. Our policy toward these areas involves national security and domestic considerations quite apart from their effect on our foreign relations.
3. The USG recognizes that pressures for change in British, Australian and New Zealand Pacific areas are perhaps greater than in US-administered areas; that such developments are inevitable and necessary.
4. While we realize that the non-US areas cannot proceed at the same pace, we should encourage the responsible metropolises to make the political, economic and social adjustments necessary to meet the needs and aspirations of the Pacific Islands without sacrificing the essential interests of the western alliance in the region.
5. The USG does not seek to administer any areas other than those which it now administers.
6. US policy in its own areas is expected to follow US historical patterns--i.e. a strengthened relationship between the US and the territories, and increased self-government with the possibility of some form of territorial participation in the US Congress.
7. Notwithstanding the example of the Philippines, US historical precedent would not anticipate independence for its territories.
8. We question whether it is desirable or inevitable that complete independence should be given to the small, scattered, non-viable territories.
9. The US recognizes that the Commonwealth countries have undertaken some successful joint endeavors and hopes that such cooperation will be expanded to such projects as the projected University of the South Pacific in Fiji, marketing arrangements, transportation, communications, the pooling of technical training facilities, provision of development capital, etc.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B. H. BAMS DATE 2/25/87

RDS  or XDS  EXT. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TS AUTH. \_\_\_\_\_ REASON(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED  RELEASABLE

RELEASE

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

85 422167

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

10. Australia and New Zealand should be encouraged to play more active roles in the economic development of the Pacific Islands in view of their own considerable economic and strategic interests.

11. As an immediate measure, the five administering authorities should consider means of making the South Pacific Commission more responsive to the wishes of the people by granting them more representation on the Commission itself and more responsibility for assisting in decisions affecting their welfare.

12. Such reorganization of the Commission should be sought within the existing framework of the Commission's present Charter.

13. The US Government would not want at this stage to accept changes in the basic Agreement establishing the South Pacific Commission which would be of such a major character as to require Congressional approval.

14. The USG sees no evidence of Pacific political federations being formed within the foreseeable future fostered either by the administering authorities or by the peoples of the area.

15. The USG sees some evidence, however, that several mini-states might come into being within the next few years of an independent or quasi-independent nature.

16. While we would recognize that Fiji and Papua-New Guinea might have the potential of political and economic viability, independence for such small entities as Nauru and Tonga and such under-developed areas as the British Solomon Islands and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony present a precarious picture.

17. The USG is interested in receiving information on the possibilities of these mini-states being created and the opinions of the present administering authorities on the possibilities of such states seeking membership in the South Pacific Commission or the United Nations.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

05 422168