

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : IO - Mr. William H. Gleysteen

DATE: April 29, 1969 (E)

FROM : EA/J - Ulrich A. Straus

EXCISE

SUBJECT:

During a visit to Okinawa recently I attended a cocktail party on March 31 given by FSO Ronald Gaiduk for a group of Micronesian legislative leaders. I met briefly with Senator Salii, Chairman of the Political Status Commission of the Congress of Micronesia, TTPI, and several Commission members.

The group was low keyed, obviously well disposed toward the U.S. Government and American people, straight-forward in their approach with a refreshing candor. They were well pleased with the reception they had received on their swing around the Southwest Pacific, which they stated was the first such venture for their group. All of them mentioned in varying ways that they had been particularly struck by the helpfulness of the State Department personnel they had encountered en route. Several said they hoped the State Department could take over administration of Micronesia from the Department of Interior. None of them seemed even to consider the possibility of a regime other than US. control. However, there were expressions of dissatisfaction, some quite strong, with the attitude of Department of Interior administrators toward the Micronesians. I understood these attitudes to be patronizing and indifferent to the natives' welfare, and a generally fairly low level of expertise and competence. The Micronesians also complained particularly about the lack of educational opportunities in the islands.

I did not spend long enough with the group to have lasting impressions about each individual.

cc: EA/ANZ - Mr. Blackburn

EA/J:UAStraus:bd 4/29/69

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