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Classification

Origin
Info

ACTION:

- Amembassy Canberra
- Amcon Suva
- Amembassy Wellington
- Amembassy London
- Amembassy Paris

SUBJ: Micronesian Status Commission reports

1. Micronesian News Service ~~report~~ that Status Commission has presented first official public recommendations for possible new status for Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
2. At special session Palau Legislature, Commission Chairman Salii said Commission has "reduced the desirable alternatives to two and from among these two, we have chosen one." Official recommendation is that Trust Territory should become a free associated state, that is, Salii reportedly announced, state that would be internally self-governing with Micronesian control over all the branches of government including the executive.
3. Salii told legislature that if future negotiations with USG toward establishment of free associated state of Micronesia should fail, the Commission's recommended second alternative would be independence.
4. Salii went on to say, "We chose a free state because the continuation of a colonial kind of status would prove degrading to Micronesians and unworthy of America. Furthermore, in recommending free association with the US we seek not an end but a re-definition, renewal and improvement of our 22 year old partnership with American."

5. Text of press statement pouched.

END

Drafted by:

EA/ANZ:RFB/ag/burn4/28/69

Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

Clearances:

INT: GM (substance)
IO: Peale

REVIEWED BY *W. J. P.*

DATE FEB. 25 1987

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