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FILE DESIGNATION

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : USUN NEW YORK

FROM : Department of State

SUBJECT : Observations to Trusteeship Council Petitions
T/PET.10/47; T/PET.10/48; T/PET.10/49; T/PET.10/55;
and T/PET.10/56

REF : USUN's A-355 of March 4, 1969; A,456 of March 19,
1969; A-679 of April 21, 1969; and A-840 of
May 13, 1969

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The Mission is requested to submit to the UN Secretariat the following as the formal written observations on the following petitions:

1. T/PET.10/47, a petition from the Mariana Islands District Legislature:

BEGIN QUOTE

PETITION FROM THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/PET.10/47)

Observations of the Government of the United States of America as Administering Authority

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the latter's note of February 25, 1969 to which was attached a petition from the Mariana Islands District Legislature concerning war damage claims in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/PET.10/47).

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Drafted by: IO:UNP:SRPeale
Drafting Date: 5/23/69 Phone No.: 3116
Contents and Classification Approved by: Elizabeth Ann Brown
Clearances: EA - Miss McNutt IO:UNP - Mr. Gleysteen Interior - Mr. Milner Interior - Mrs. Farrington

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In accordance with rule 86, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure in the Trusteeship Council, the United States Government as Administering Authority has the honor to make the following comments on the Mariana Islands District Legislature's petition.

The Mariana Islands District Legislature has asked the Council to investigate and expedite the settlement of war damage claims of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory. The United States is pleased to report the signing of an agreement between the United States and Japan providing for a joint disposition of the claims issue. As stated in an exchange of notes accompanying the agreement, the United States intends to make provision for payment of claims of individual Micronesian inhabitants of the Territory in an amount not to exceed the sum corresponding to the total amounts contributed by the United States and Japan.

Before claims can be paid, they will have to be processed and evaluated. It is hoped that by the time this process has been completed appropriations will have been made by the respective legislatures and the final settlement requested in the petition will be achieved.

END QUOTE

2. T/PET.10/48, a petition from the Palau Legislature.

BEGIN QUOTE

PETITION FROM THE PALAU LEGISLATURE
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/PET.10/48)

Observations of the Government of the United
States of America as Administering Authority

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the latter's note of March 18, 1969 to which was attached a petition from the Palau Legislature concerning the advisability of reviewing the

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Trusteeship Agreement relating to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for possible amendments to be made with the advice and consent of the people of Micronesia.

In accordance with rule 86, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure in the Trusteeship Council, the United States Government as Administering Authority has the honor to make the following comments on the Palau Legislature's petition.

In this petition the Palau Legislature, citing the fact that the people of Micronesia did not have a voice in formulating the original Trusteeship Agreement and that some of its provisions are not to their liking, requests possible amendment of the Agreement and giving the Micronesians a voice in the process of review.

The United States acknowledges that, as in the case of other trusteeships, the Micronesians did not have a voice in formulating the original Agreement. The United States also agrees that there have been important changes since 1947 and that the Micronesians have every right to expect a greater voice in their own affairs. As Secretary of the Interior Hickel said during his recent visit to the Territory, "For years you have had little voice in your government. This is wrong. Only when the people lead their government can that government be great and the people prosper."

The United States sympathizes with the desire of the Palau Legislature that all Micronesians be in a position to consent to the basic framework under which they live. Rather than amend the Trusteeship Agreement, however, the United States believes that representatives of the Micronesian people should work together with representatives of the United States on the more fundamental question of devising a permanent future status of the Territory and providing its inhabitants with the right of self-determination to which they are entitled.

It is this task to which the United States in consultation with the Micronesians intends to devote its energies. By doing so it will be possible to provide for a far better and more permanent solution to the problem raised in this petition than could be achieved through amendments to the present Trusteeship Agreement.

END QUOTE

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3. T/PET.10/49, a petition from the Mariana Islands District Legislature.

BEGIN QUOTE

PETITION FROM THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT
LEGISLATURE CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/PET.10/49)

Observations of the Government of the United
States of America as Administering Authority

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the latter's note of March 18, 1969 to which was attached a petition from the Mariana Islands District Legislature concerning the desire of the people of the Marianas for reunification with Guam.

In accordance with rule 86, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure in the Trusteeship Council, the United States Government as Administering Authority has the honor to make the following comments on the Mariana Islands District Legislature's petition.

This petition, requesting the United Nations to effect the immediate reunification of the Northern Mariana Islands with the United States Territory of Guam, expresses a sentiment which has been noted and commented upon by the Trusteeship Council's last two Visiting Missions. The 1967 Mission expressed the view of the Council in stating that union with Guam "cannot be contemplated so long as Micronesia remains a Trust Territory." The Mission did acknowledge, however, that this sentiment will have to be considered by those concerned when the time comes for the Territory to determine its future status.

The United States has always regarded the Territory as an administrative entity. We do not necessarily rule out any particular choice which might be offered to the people of the Territory at the time of self-determination, but such divisions will depend heavily on the desires of the Micronesian people. At the present the

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Micronesian Status Commission, which includes a member from the Mariana Islands District, seems to be thinking in terms of the Territory maintaining its unity. Perhaps other views will appear during the discussions which Secretary of the Interior Hickel has proposed between the Micronesian leadership and representatives of the United States Government.

END QUOTE

4. T/PET.10/55, a petition from the Twenty-first Saipan Legislature.

BEGIN QUOTE

PETITION FROM THE TWENTY-FIRST SAIPAN
LEGISLATURE CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/PET.10/55)

Observations of the Government of the United
States of America as Administering Authority

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the latter's note of April 17, 1969 to which was attached a petition from the Saipan Legislature concerning its desire that the Soviet Union be included as a member of the 1970 Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In accordance with rule 86, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure in the Trusteeship Council, the United States Government as Administering Authority has the honor to make the following comments on the Saipan Legislature's petition.

This petition requests the Council to include a representative of the Soviet Union on the 1970 Visiting Mission to the Territory.

The Trusteeship Council, and not the United States, is responsible for deciding which member states are to be represented on Visiting Missions. However, the United States cannot accept the implication of this petition that the members of previous Visiting Missions have not shown a keen insight into the

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problems of the Territory or that they have not reflected the feelings and wishes of the people in their reports. Quite the contrary. The United States believes that previous Visiting Missions have been thorough, penetrating and objective in their investigations and constructive in their criticisms.

The United States has every reason to believe that the 1970 Visiting Mission, no matter which countries its members might represent, will perform its function in the same thorough and objective manner as its predecessors and with the same determination to avoid propagandistic activities.

END QUOTE

5. T/PET.10/56, a petition from the Mariana Islands District Legislature.

BEGIN QUOTE

PETITION FROM THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT
LEGISLATURE CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/PET.10/56)

Observations of the Government of the United
States of America as Administering Authority

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the latter's note of May 9, 1969 to which was attached a petition from the Mariana Islands District Legislature concerning its desire to see the Trusteeship Agreement revamped and nullified.

In accordance with rule 86, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure in the Trusteeship Council, the United States Government as Administering Authority has the honor to make the following comments on the Mariana Islands District Legislature's petition.

This petition, pointing out that the people of the Territory were not consulted as to the original Trusteeship Agreement and claiming that the United States has failed to meet its

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obligations to the inhabitants of the Territory, asks the Security Council to revamp and nullify the Agreement.

As the United States stated in its observations to T/PET.10/48, the fact that the Micronesians were not consulted as to the terms of the original Trusteeship Agreement cannot be denied, but this is, of course, in the nature of the trusteeship system. The United States also acknowledges that the people of the Territory have a right to expect a greater voice in their affairs.

Since the petition does not spell out those areas where the Mariana Islands Legislature sees failings of the United States administration, it is impossible to comment in detail. Secretary Hickel, in speaking to the Micronesians in Saipan, clearly acknowledged some shortcomings of the administration -- and he also pledged to take steps to correct them. The United States will continue to seek to improve its administration and to meet specific complaints of the people of the Territory.

The United States believes, as it said in response to T/PET.10/48, that the full answer to the issues raised in this petition lies not in revamping the Agreement but in seeking a permanent solution in the form of a choice by the Micronesians as to their future political status. Such a solution will provide lasting, rather than temporary, answers to the problems raised in this petition.

END QUOTE

RICHARDSON, ACTING

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