

ORIGIN/ACTION

EA6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-287

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TO : Department of State
 INFO: Amconsul AUCKLAND
 Amembassy CANBERRA
 Amconsul SUVA
 USUN
 FROM : Amembassy WELLINGTON
 SUBJECT: The DOMINION carries article on U.S. Trust Territory
 REF :

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 11 01 AM 1969

RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

Handling Instructions:
 Action Assigned to AM 2
 Action Taken
 969 AUG 26 18 1969
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS
 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
 TRUST TERRITORIES

AUG 24 PM 1 32

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Generous excerpts from an article by Charles Hillinger on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, reportedly published recently in the Los Angeles Times, were carried on the editorial page of the Wellington Dominion of August 6. Under the heading "America's Backward Empire," the Dominion's piece starts off with a quote from the comments of an unidentified New Zealand official made in what is called "a controversial report condemning U.S. administration of its Pacific Territories." According to the article, the New Zealander, who is unnamed but described as an official of the Trust Territory, wrote: "Never have I seen so many islands in as bad shape as those administered by the United States."

Asserting that the New Zealander's views are shared by "most knowledgeable persons in the area," the one-column article carries several excerpts from his comments, all highly critical of the administration in the Territory. It also quotes an American Trust Territory Commissioner, Joseph F. Screen, as charging that the U.S. record in Micronesia has been "disgraceful."

The concluding part of the article quotes the report

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In Out

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POL: MVTrent:fg 8/18/69

Contents and Classification Approved by:
DCM: HVOSS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE FEB. 25 1987

EXEMPTIONS

EXEMPT. DATE REASON(S)

EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE

UNCLASSIFIED

2

as saying that if the Micronesians were given a choice,
"they would probably elect to fragment the island 'empire'
joining Japan, Australia and New Zealand."

HENNING

J FH
per
AWD

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