

(Milner)

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Dan Farrington

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STATUS CHECKLIST

STATUS QUO

(CONTINUE TRUSTEESHIP)

I. Advantages to Micronesians

- (a) Only status they fully know.
- (b) U.N. relationship gives public international lever for funds and other aid from U.S.

II. Disadvantages to Micronesians

- (a) Trusteeship is essentially temporary, though indefinite, in term.
- (b) Political future unclear.
- (c) Economic development inhibited by uncertain future status.

III. Advantages to U.S.

- (a) Gives Defense all that is required for security purposes.
- (b) Involves no lasting or permanent obligations beyond Defense needs.

IV. Disadvantages to U.S.

- (a) Trusteeships going out of style with U.S. subject to international criticism for not ending TTPI status.
- (b) Pressures within territory make preservation of status quo increasingly unpopular.
- (c) Passage of time leads to growing disaffection for U.S.
- (d) Although meeting short-run defense needs, does not meet long-run requirement.

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UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY

I. Advantages to Micronesians

- (a) Permanent answer to political status.
- (b) U.S. nationality or citizenship.
- (c) Unrestricted access to U.S.
- (d) Potential full participation in U.S. domestic grant programs.
- (e) Further development in self-government possible.

II. Disadvantages to Micronesians.

- (a) Loss of access to world opinion through Trusteeship Council.
- (b) Discrimination in favor of Micronesians. (employment, investment, etc.) prohibited.
- (c) Tax liabilities would probably mount.
- (d) Would be liable to U.S. military service.

III. Advantages to U.S.

- (a) U.S. would no longer be responsible to Trusteeship Council and Security Council for administration.
- (b) Political future (independence or association with other power) question would be resolved.
- (c) Defense requirements would be permanently secured.

IV. Disadvantages to U.S.

- (a) Fiscal subsidies would continue in perpetuity, even though defense requirements may end.
- (b) Unless "self-governing" reporting to UN as "non-self-governing" territory would continue.

## COMMONWEALTH

The advantages and disadvantages are the same as for "unincorporated territory" status. The status of "commonwealth" has a popular appeal based largely on misconceptions as to the consequences of such status. The consequences of commonwealth are held to be:

- (a) Elective Governor.
- (b) A voice in the U.S. Congress.
- (c) Freedom from Federal taxes.
- (4) Locally drafted constitution.

The first three were conferred upon Puerto Rico before the "commonwealth" was established.

The locally drafted constitution is unique, but there is no constitutional bar to enabling legislation permitting any unincorporated territory to adopt its own constitution.

There is a school of thought that holds that the Puerto Rico "compact" legislation is irrevocable except by mutual consent. In other words, the U.S. Congress no longer has authority to revise the compact or to legislate for the "commonwealth". This is an advantage for those who fear arbitrary or capricious action by the U.S. Congress.

A further "advantage" is that the U.N. General Assembly in 1953 accepted the "Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" as a "self-governing" status. But this carried more on abstentions than on affirmative votes and the UN of 1953 was quite different from the UN of 1969.

A final "advantage" is that the "commonwealth" is not under the administrative jurisdiction of any Executive Agency.

A disadvantage is the avowed aversion to "commonwealth" by influential members of the two Interior Committees.