

46

UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY
CHECK TEXT AGAINST DELIVERY

Press Release USUN-84(70)
June 11, 1970

Statement by Ambassador S. Harry Wright, United States Representative
on the Trusteeship Council, on the Trust Territory of the Pacific
Islands, June 11, 1970.

Mr. President,

The principal concluding statements of my Delegation will be
made by the Special Representative and the Special Advisers.
However, before you turn over the floor to them, I would like to
make a few brief remarks.

The Council is now concluding a careful and thorough examination
of my Government's administration of the Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands. Our work has been immeasurably assisted by the
excellent report of the 1970 United Nations Visiting Mission. We
look upon the report, particularly its suggestions and recommenda-
tions, as a valuable aid to us. We are grateful to those members
of the Council and of the Secretariat who gave so generously of
their time and energies to prepare the report.

During our debates here, all of us in the United States
Delegation have done our best to be frank and forthcoming with you.
We appreciate the friendly candor which marked the questions and the
statements of our distinguished colleagues on the Council. We have
appreciated, Mr. President, the able and objective leadership which
you have given us during our deliberations.

The Trusteeship Council has demonstrated once more how an organ
of the United Nations can contribute meaningfully to the achievement
of certain very worthwhile objectives which the founders of the
United Nations embodied in the Charter.

-more-

70L
19
11

While I have the floor, I should like to address myself to a statement by the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union. In his general debate statement, he drew attention to a petition containing a resolution of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia. This petition clearly demonstrated the fact that the Congress of Micronesia and the elected representatives of the people of Micronesia are free to say what they wish about any aspects of the United States administration of the Territory. But the petition in question was unfounded. While we can hardly agree with the interpretation placed upon the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement by the distinguished Representative of the Soviet Union, I can categorically state that no tests of biological materials or agents have taken place in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands since U.S. occupation of the islands during World War II. Furthermore, as a matter of policy, the United States has no intention of testing any such material or agents at Eniwetok, or for that matter, anywhere in the Trust Territory.

I should also like to comment on the allegation of the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union that the United States is failing to carry out its obligation to develop the people of the Territory toward self-determination. This is clearly not the case. Quite the contrary we believe that due at least in part to our efforts there is growing political awareness and maturity in the Territory. These necessary ingredients to any meaningful act of self-determination are, as our delegation stated before the Council last year, clearly shown by the increased number of thoughtful -- even if not always accurate -- petitions and communications submitted to the Council from the Territory.

My Delegation also finds it interesting that while professing to advocate self-determination for the people of Micronesia, the distinguished representative of the Soviet Union feels compelled to dictate the choice which the people must make and the timing in which they should make it. My Delegation does not believe that this is the proper role of the Council, or, for that matter of the United States. Rather, and as we have reported to the Council, the United States has been working with the elected representatives of the Micronesian people to learn their desires regarding their future status and to try to work out a mutually suitable arrangement consistent with these wishes and our trusteeship obligations.

In concluding, Mr. President, I would like to say that in my opening remarks before this Council, I referred to myself as one of the new members of the Council. I would note in this connection that both you, Mr. President, and I have completed our apprenticeship. I look forward to returning to this Council with you and with our other colleagues as veterans. Thank you.