



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

SECRET/EXDIS


NSC-U/DM 62

April 2, 1971

TO : The Deputy Secretary of Defense  
The Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Deputy Attorney General  
The Under Secretary of Interior  
The Assistant Director, Office of  
Management and Budget

SUBJECT: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
-- Future Political Status

Enclosed is the final text of the memorandum  
for the President as transmitted by the Chairman  
on March 31, 1971.

  
Arthur A. Hartman  
Staff Director

Attachment:

As stated herein.

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under provisions of E.O. 13526  
by S. Reger, National Security Council

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-12-

Enclosures:

Tab A - Summary of Options

Tab B - Report of Interagency  
Committee

Tab C - Proposed Congressional  
Consultations

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Under Division: CF EO 12356

By: B. Rieger, National Security Council

SUMMARY OF OPTIONS  
(as considered by the Committee)

Approach:

Make maintenance of Trusteeship acceptable to Micronesians.

- Option: Continuation of the Trusteeship; Micronesian self-government subject to U.S. security requirements.

The Micronesians would fully manage their own affairs, including relations with foreign countries other than military involvements; the United States, by maintaining the Trusteeship, would continue its rights to exclude any foreign military presence and to retain or condemn land for military purposes (Tab B, pp. 11-15).

Approach:

Maintain objective of U.S. sovereignty.

- Option: Modification of the U.S. commonwealth proposal.

We would, within predetermined limits, be prepared to modify the U.S. proposal in an attempt to gain Micronesian acceptance. This might entail concessions in one or more of the three critical areas -- eminent domain, Federal Supremacy, and termination (Tab B, pp. 19-20).

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By B. Regier, National Security Council

-- Option: District-by-district plebiscite

To obtain a permanent association with the United States of at least the Marianas, probably Yap, and possibly other districts, we would offer each of the six districts a choice between accession to the United States and independence (Tab B, pp. 21-22).

Approach:

Seek close relationship short of U.S. sovereignty.

-- Option: "Free Association" (i.e., Micronesian "sovereignty" recognized by compact, with the United States assigned exclusive control over foreign relations and defense).

While granting Micronesian "sovereignty," this arrangement could result in a relationship approaching that of a modified commonwealth at its limits. Strategic denial and basing rights would be secured both by the compact and specific pre-negotiated arrangements. In return, while granting Micronesia full internal autonomy, we could offer a variety of benefits to tie Micronesia more closely to the United States, such as participation in federal domestic programs, access to the U.S. judicial system, the rights of U.S. nationality, etc. (Tab B, pp. 23-25).

SECRET/EXDIS

- 3 -

Approach:

Approaches not currently considered feasible long-term solutions.

- Option: Continuation of the Trusteeship, attempt to create conditions conducive to acceptance of the recent U.S. commonwealth proposal.

We would keep the commonwealth proposal open and hope to build future Micronesian support for it through administrative improvements and increased Micronesian responsibility for governing the Territory (Tab B, pp. 16-18).

- Option: Micronesian sovereignty (i.e., independence with prearranged treaty ties, Tab B, pp. 26-27).

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