

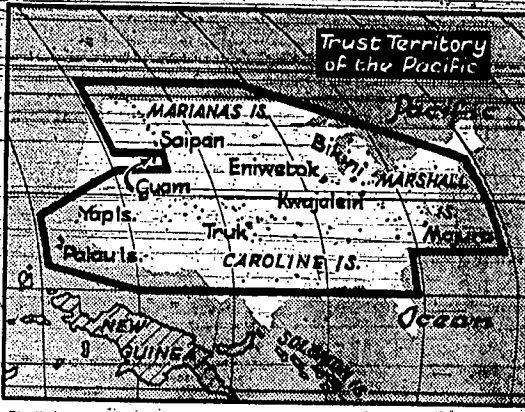
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Micronesian Nationalists Accuse U.S. of Plan to Keep Islands

By ROBERT TRUMBULL
Special to The New York Times
SYDNEY, Australia, May 8

A purportedly official document being distributed by Micronesian nationalists says that the United States adopted a policy under the Kennedy Administration of making the strategic Central Pacific Islands of Micronesia a permanent American possession in spite of opposition expected in the United Nations.

The document is said to be a hitherto unpublished portion of a report to the White House in 1963 by a nine-man mission to the islands headed by Anthony M. Solomon. Only part of the mission's recommendations, known as the Solomon Report, was made public by the Government.



The New York Times May 9, 1971
Map shows how Trust Territory of the Pacific spreads over an area larger than the continental United States

The 2,141 islands and atolls of Micronesia, with a population today of about 100,000, were taken from Japan by American forces in World War II. The territory, with a total land area of only 720 square miles sprinkled over an expanse of sea larger than the continental United States, has been under United States administration as a United Nations trusteeship since 1947.

The islands, consisting of the Marshall, Caroline and Marianas groups, are known officially as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Their geographical position astride the sea routes to the western and southwestern Pacific gives the islands strategic importance. In World War II Japan fortified them as naval and air bases. American forces drove the Japanese from key positions and used them in naval and air operations, culminating in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki from an airfield on Tinian Island, in the Marianas group, in August 1945.

The United States has used Bikini Atoll in the Marshall group for atomic tests. Kwajalein Atoll also in the Marshalls

is an important missile-testing site. Numerous airfields and potential logistics and training areas on other islands, though not put to military use for many years, are periodically inspected by high-ranking officers and have been described as a possible new United States defense frontier in the Western Pacific if American forces are pulled out of Asia.

Under the trusteeship agreement the United States is to guide the islanders toward eventual independence or self-government. The document said to be the suppressed part of the Solomon Report suggests ways of insuring that the islanders would vote in a plebiscite for permanent affiliation with the United States.

No such plebiscite has been held. But other recommendations of the Solomon Report have been put into effect, such as a steep increase in funding and upgrading of local political responsibilities through the establishment of an islandwide legislature.

The document states that President Kennedy, in a memorandum dated April 18, 1962, suggested in the document to set forth as U.S. policy the

movement of Micronesia into a permanent relationship with the U.S. within our political framework for security reasons.

"In keeping with that goal," the document continues, "the memorandum called for accelerated development of the area to bring its political, economic and social standards into line with an eventual permanent association."

Anticipating adverse reaction in the United Nations, the report declares that "the U.S. might have to decide to proceed with a series of actions that would make the trusteeship agreement a dead issue, at least from the Micronesian viewpoint"—in other words, to make a permanent connection to the United States an accomplished fact.

The accelerated development ordered in the Presidential policy memorandum has been put into effect under a program that has raised the annual funding of the trust territory by Congress from about \$7 million to more than \$50 million.

But some of the measures suggested in the document to promote a permanent affilia-

tion with the United States have backfired.

Expansion of the Peace Corps in the islands, in the hope of promoting friendship for the United States, resulted instead in support for Peace Corps activities for the Inchoate Micronesian nationalist movement. The Peace Corps program has been cut back.

An increase in scholarships for higher education urged by the report led to the establishment of an organization of the Micronesian students agitating

for the independence of their islands at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. This organization published the purportedly classified part of the Solomon Report.

An offer of Commonwealth status, affiliating the islands with the United States in a relationship like that of Puerto Rico, was rejected last year by the Congress of Micronesia. The islandwide legislature. The Congress demanded a looser "free association," which the American side refused.

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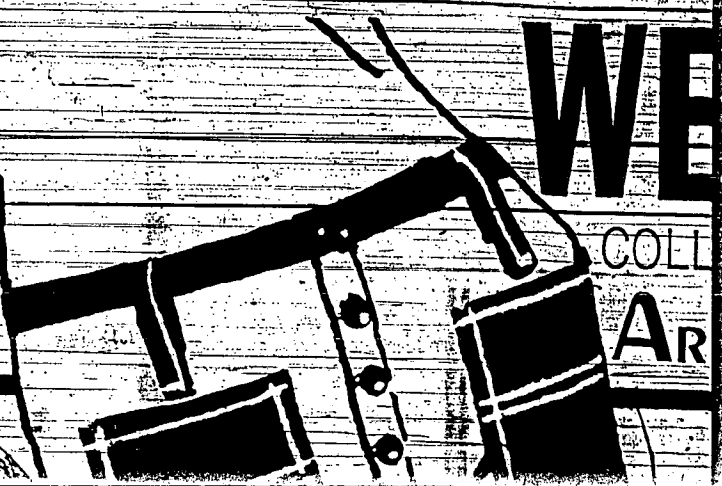
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