

U.S. May Try to By-Pass U.N. on Micronesia

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STAR-BULLETIN

By Gardiner B. Jones
Editor, Pacific News Service

China and the Soviet Union are two reasons the United States is pushing for an early end to its United Nations trusteeship of the islands of Micronesia.

It has been learned reliably that a preponderant view in Washington now is to negotiate with Micronesia an end to the trusteeship as quickly as possible without asking U.N. approval.

The reason is a fear that any agreement with Micronesia satisfactory to U.S. security interests in the Pacific would almost certainly be vetoed in the Security Council by China or Russia, or both.

SO THERE is a strong advocacy for by-passing the United Nations—despite the

fact that the U.N. created Micronesia and gave the U.S. control of it in 1947.

With a final agreement signed by both parties, the thinking goes, the U.S. would simply inform the United Nations it had terminated the trusteeship on mutually satisfactory grounds.

It would not submit the agreement for U.N. approval, thus avoiding the feared Soviet or Chinese veto.

There are, however, still some in Washington who feel that since the U.S. trusteeship of Micronesia was granted by the U.N. its termination must likewise have U.N. approval.

This whole developing strategy toward the U.N. is considered to be one of the unspoken reasons that U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams has proposed a slight delay before resuming political status talks with the Micronesians.

WILLIAMS HAS ASKED to delay until at least March instead of meeting again later this month or early next year as had been proposed.

The suggestion for the delay was made late last week in a letter to Sen. Lazarus Salii and Rep. Ekpap Silk, cochairmen of the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia.

In his letter, Williams cited as the chief reason for a delay the fact that so much progress was made, and so many new factors unearthed, in recent talks at Hana, Maui, that both sides need more time to consider.

The explanation is no doubt true—as far as it goes. There are new factors to consider. But beyond that, it is understood, the U.S. feels itself within striking distance of a final settlement and wants both sides to be

ready for the next talks so that the settlement will not be jeopardized.

THIS RATIONALE for the basic U.S. approach to the negotiations is further strengthened by a portion of the letter from Ambassador Williams to the Micronesian negotiators.

The ambassador, it is understood, points out that the major factor of disagreement between the U.S. and the Micronesians centered on the method of termination of their future association.

At Hana, the two sides agreed generally on a formula under which the U.S. would handle Micronesia's defense and relations with the outside world while Micronesia ruled supreme internally.

The Micronesians insist that this arrangement could be terminated by them without U.S. approval at any time. For its own security interests, the U.S. feels that termination would have to be agreed on jointly.

AT THE SAME TIME, in the Hana talks, the Micronesians, while agreeing to allow the U.S. to conduct their external affairs, insisted on the right of prior approval.

In his letter, Ambassador Williams said in effect that such an arrangement would not satisfy American strategic interests in the Pacific, that the U.S. must have a free hand.

Further, the ambassador hinted that if the Micronesians would guarantee to satisfy U.S. defense concerns by granting unhindered control of their external affairs, the U.S. might relax its attitude on termination.

Also, he held forth a guarantee of firm economic support if the islanders would meet him on this point.

The essence, then, is that the U.S. is striking for an early end to the U.N. trusteeship on satisfactory strategic terms, hopes to avoid a Chinese or Soviet veto by by-passing the U.N. and wants a little more time for the Micronesians to digest its proposals—and presumably find them agreeable.

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Micronesia's Role Now a Fiery Issue

By Gardiner B. Jones
Editor, Pacific News Service

The setting on fire of the residence of Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston on Saipan is the second major act of political violence in Micronesia this year.

It underlines the growing restiveness over future political status — a restiveness that the dramatic progress in recent negotiations at Hana, Maui, apparently has failed to quiet.

Last spring, two Congress of Micronesia buildings — not far from the high commissioner's residence — were burned deliberately. One building was a total loss; the other received less damage. The identity of the arsonists has never been established.

IT WAS believed at the time, however, that the arson was the work of persons anxious for closer political ties with the United States — a defiance of the Congress which symbolized the opposite political trend.

The Mariana Islands, of which Saipan is the capital, have been agitating to get out of the Trust Territory in order to assume a closer relationship with the United States.

In this, the Marianas differ from the rest of the vast territory which is heading in the direction of free association, an arrangement under which the Micronesians would be completely self-governing in domestic matters; the United States would have a voice only in defense and foreign relations.

Whether the burning of Johnston's residence is an

other manifestation of impatience among pro-U.S. political forces is uncertain.

IT IS an undeniable factor that, despite being conscientious and able, Johnston has not succeeded in establishing warm relations with many Micronesians; in some quarters he is actively disliked.

Another element to consider is the growing independence movement.

Although the recent Hana talks moved far toward a settlement on the basis of free association, independence forces have for the past two months been arguing that Hana proves that independence is Micronesia's only course.

So there is at least a possibility that the political arson could have flowed from this quarter of strong dissatisfaction over the trend of events in Micronesia.

Idea Backed to Make All Micronesia a Park

By Nadine Wharton
Star-Bulletin Writer 2 DEC 1971

Sen. Amata Kabua, president of the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, is supporting a proposal to make all of Micronesia an Oceanic Park System — a vast international peace park

"And after the rest of the world finishes blowing itself up and polluting itself, we'd like to offer Micronesia as an untouched place for man to visit — just to visit," he said.

What Kabua is advocating, with the support of The Friends of the Earth, is that all of those 2,500 islands in the five-million square miles of ocean wilderness from Hawaii to the Philippines, be left alone.

HE IS ALSO proposing that the 100,000 people who live on those islands, whose total land area is less than the smallest American state, also be left alone and allowed to live as they have for thousands of years.

Next summer, McCall's Publishing Company and the Friends of the Earth will publish a large format book titled "Micronesia — the Pacific Wilderness," with 60 full-page color plates by photographer Robert Wenkam and text by Kenneth Brower.

The book, Wenkam says, is a plea to save the unique island environment and life style of the Islands, which is now under the administration of the United States as a United Nations Strategic Trusteeship.

The park system would be established and administered by the independent Congress of Micronesia.

Wenkam points out that a substantial part of the earth's surface, above and beneath the sea, is little-known, relatively unexplored, in this territory called Micronesia.

The Japanese called the islands "Nanyo" — south seas and Europeans named the land Micronesia — tiny islands.

THE ISLANDERS speak a multitude of languages and comprise a half-dozen ethnic groups and they call themselves, without pretense, "the people."

Intruding colonizers, traders and politicians from Asia, Europe and America, have somehow mostly overlooked the island civilization.

Of the islands, only 90 are inhabited in the three million square miles designated as the Trust Territory of the Pacific. Many are inhabited by only a dozen or so people or by seasonal copra harvesting crews.

Natives, skilled in seamanship passed down through

the generations, still sail the open oceans between isolated islands — navigating thousands of miles without watch or compass.

Wenkam points out that geologically the islands range from the volcanically active Marianas and the extinct volcanic high islands of Palau, Yap, Truk and Ponape, to the low atolls in Yap, Truk and the Marshalls.

THE DEEPEST waters of any ocean on earth lie between Guam and Truk in the Marianas trench, Wenkam points out.

To preserve not only the unique island scenic beauty — to preserve its history and its indigenous traditions — is the purpose of the park proposal.

"Any historical park is meaningless that does not also recognize paramount rights of the Iroj and the Nahmwarki, and preserve culture, language and traditional land use rights," Wenkam wrote in the "Micronesian Reporter."

But how to do this — this proposal of such gigantic, and some would say magnificent — proportions?

Wenkam suggested to the Congress that the system should include all significant sites, scenic, historic and recreational, on land and beneath the sea, in all sections of Micronesia.

"The largest areas could be designated Micronesian Oceanic Parks and require major funding and professional management, established by legislative act of the Congress of Micronesia, which would also create an Oceanic Park Service ranger system.

ALTHOUGH THE system would be similar to U.S. National Parks, Wenkam said, it would in many ways be different.

"On many islands land ownership would remain with the Iroj and Nahmwarki, with leases obtained by the Micronesian Ocean Park Service to provide maintenance, protection, interpretation and public use."

Smaller district or municipal parks would be under the jurisdiction of local officials.

"Marine sanctuaries, wildlife refuges and forest reserves should also be established both within and outside park boundaries where specific ecological circumstances require specialized management of land or sea.

"These specially designated areas should properly be placed under the jurisdiction of a Director of Conservation, perhaps appointed by a Natural Resources or Fish and Wildlife Commission, also established by the Congress of Micronesia."

This is the recommendation of the Friends of the Earth.

Micronesia future status negotiators postpone talks

The fourth round of formal talks on the political future of Micronesia appear likely to be postponed from December until March.

U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, President Nixon's personal representative for Micronesian status negotiations, has asked his Micronesian counterparts for the delay.

Sen. Lazarus Salii of the Palau, co-chairman of the Congress of Micronesia's joint committee on future status, told The Advertiser by phone from Berkeley, Calif., that he is agreeable to Williams' proposal.

THE NEGOTIATORS, who met at Hana, Maui, in October to discuss alternatives to the present Trust Territory of the Pacific government, had agreed to renew their talks in Koror shortly before the Congress of Micronesia convenes its next session there next month.

Williams told Salii and his committee that the additional time would enable them to explore the results of the Hana meetings more thoroughly with their constituents.

He said it would be best for both U.S. and Micronesian negotiators to be fully prepared to respond to the policy and technical questions which emerged at Hana.

Williams said the next formal working session might even start translating preliminary agreements in principle into a draft Compact of Association between the U.S. and Micronesia—a protocol or treaty to be ratified by the American and Micronesian congresses and, ultimately, submitted in referendum to the Micronesian people.

SALII, WHO is on a six-month fellowship at the University of California, termed Williams' request reasonable and said he appreciated it.

He added, however, that he had not had an opportunity to discuss it with other members of his committee and probably would not be able to do so until he returns home for the congressional session.

Meanwhile, from Saipan, the Micronesia News Service, an official Trust Territory government agency, yesterday reported that Carl Heine, Salii's staff director, has relayed Williams' proposal to all members of the status committee and canceled hotel reservations held for those who had been expected at the talks.

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