



Department of State

TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-11 EUR-20 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

P-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 E-11 COM-08 INT-08 TRSE-00

SCI-05 CG-00 OMB-01 GAC-01 T-03 RSR-01 /171 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1998

SUBJ: TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL GENERAL DEBATE ON TTPI, MAY 30

1. SUMMARY: THERE WAS GENERAL DEBATE YESTERDAY (MAY 30) IN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL WITH AUSTRALIA, UK, FRANCE, AND USSR SPEAKING. THE SOVIET PRESENTATION WAS RELATIVELY MILD, BUT STILL THE HARSHEST, DEALING MOSTLY WITH FUTURE STATUS. FRANCE HARDLY TOUCHED ON FUTURE STATUS WHILE AUSTRALIA AND UK DEALT IN ABOUT EQUAL MEASURE WITH FUTURE STATUS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY. END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH AUSTRALIA AND UK WERE IMPRESSED BY PROGRESS OF STATUS TALKS, UK HOPING THAT "SPIRIT OF PALAU" WILL CONTINUE, AUSTRALIA COMMENDING PROGRESS AND STATING BELIEF FOUR PRINCIPLES RECOGNIZED. FRANCE STATED THAT THE TWO PARTIES APPEARED TO BE GETTING "PROGRESSIVELY" CLOSER TOGETHER. THE SOVIETS SAID THAT WE ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE OUR WILL ON THE MICRONESIANS.

3. AUSTRALIA AND UK TOUCHED ON LOS CONFERENCE. AUSTRALIA COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH "WE WOULD NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON THE EXACT WAY IN WHICH MICRONESIAN VIEWS SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE LOS CONFERENCE, IF THEY ARE GOING TO DIFFER FROM U.S. VIEWS, IT IS CLEAR THAT IN SOME WAY THEY SHOULD BE PROPERLY AND FULLY PRESENTED." UK STATED THAT ON LOS "ONE POSSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH THIS IS OF COURSE FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES

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OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONSIDER, IS THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO TAKE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL LOS CONFERENCE AS SPECIAL ADVISERS ATTACHED TO THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION."

4. MARIANAS - AUSTRALIA NOTED THAT MAJORITY WANTED SEPARATE STATUS, OTHER DISTRICTS APPEARED RECONCILED TO IT. "WE ARE BOUND TO UPHOLD THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NOTHING THEREIN ABOUT THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF PARTS OF THE TERRITORY... WE RECOGNIZE REALITIES AND WE BELIEVE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THAT A SEPARATE SOLUTION FOR THE MARIANAS HAS BECOME NECESSARY. BUT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE SEPARATE SOLUTION IS OBTAINED IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE." HE ADDED THAT THE MARIANAS SHOULD REQUEST ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR POSITION BY CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AND WHEN CONGRESS SO AUTHORIZED, COUNCIL WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO DEAL WITH QUESTION.

5. UK STATED THERE ARE GOOD HISTORICAL AND ETHNIC REASONS FOR MARIANAS TO FEEL AS THEY DO. UK "PREFERS" THAT "A TRUST TERRITORY OR ANY DEPENDENT TERRITORY SHOULD ATTAIN SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE AS AN ENTITY." HOWEVER, UK STATED, IN PRACTICAL TERMS THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE DETERMINE. "AS THE COUNCIL KNOWS, ARTICLE 76 OF THE CHARTER REFERS TO 'THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH TERRITORY AND ITS PEOPLES' -- PEOPLES IN THE PLURAL. THERE IS NO OBLIGATION LAID ON ADMINISTERING POWERS BY THE CHARTER TO BRING THE TERRITORY TO SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE AS THE SAME ENTITY WHICH THAT TERRITORY CONSTITUTED WHEN IT WAS FIRST ENTRUSTED TO THE CARE OF THE POWER CONCERNED. THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE AWARE THAT IN THE TERMINATION OF TWO OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COUNCIL, THE TERRITORIES CONCERNED WERE IN FACT DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF ITS DIFFERENT PEOPLES." HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT IT WAS "GENERAL PRACTICE" THAT SINGLE UNITS EVOLVED TO SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THAT FORM. UK POSITION IS "LOOK FOR GUIDANCE AMONG THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA THEMSELVES." HE STATED THAT THE POSITIONS OF THE OTHER FIVE DISTRICTS IS NOT YET CLEAR AND THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE FULLY DEBATED IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

6. FRANCE STATED THAT IT HAD HOPED THE MARIANAS WOULD REMAIN WITH THE WHOLE TERRITORY, BUT THAT APPARENTLY THEY WERE NOT

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GOING TO DO SO. USSR STATED THAT THE U.S. NEEDS THE MARIANAS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES BECAUSE OF OUR MILITARY PULLBACK IN ASIA (HE QUOTED SULZBERGER IN APRIL 5, 1972 N.Y. TIMES AS ILLUSTRATION OF HIS POINT) AND THAT THE PENTAGON IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE STATUS TALKS. USSR ALSO STATED MARIANAS ARE NOW ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON U.S. (HE CITED IMPORTS OF \$8.6 MILLION AND EXPORTS OF \$281,000). THE U.S. IS "FANNING FLAMES OF SEPARATISM" AND IS DOING SO IN "GROSS VIOLATION" OF THE PREROGATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

7. OTHER THAN STATING THAT WE ARE "INTERESTED IN THE DESTINY" OF MICRONESIA FRANCE SAID LITTLE MORE REGARDING FUTURE STATUS THAN WHAT HAS BEEN MENTIONED, DISCUSSING MAINLY ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES. AUSTRALIA AND UK DEALT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY AND FUTURE STATUS AS SEPARATE ISSUES. USSR TIED THE TWO TOGETHER, STATING THAT THE MARIANA ISLANDS ARE AN ECONOMIC STRONG POINT, AND THEIR BREAKING AWAY WILL BE ECONOMIC BLOW TO REMAINDER OF TERRITORY. USSR REP. CONCENTRATED MOSTLY ON ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF TRUK, STATING THAT THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THERE "HELP US TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS PRECISELY IN TRUK THAT THE MOST VIRULENT INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT HAS ARISEN." HE SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES OF TRUK HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN PROPER ATTENTION BY THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY. IT APPEARS THAT APPARENT LACK OF MICRONESIAN UNITY AMONG THE REMAINING FIVE DISTRICTS WAS NOT LOST ON THE SOVIET REP. HIS SPEECH CONTRIBUTED LITTLE TO ENCOURAGING SUCH UNITY AS THERE IS. GP-3.
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