

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Status 10 -
617

Aug 23, 1972

FROM DISTAD PONAPE	INFORMATION	CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED	ORIGINATOR TRENT STATUS LNO
TO SECSTATE COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO JCS/SECDEF CINCPAC WHITE HOUSE PREC CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI	PRECEDENCE ROUTINE	DATE TIME GROUP	CLEARANCES

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FROM STATUS LNO

PASS TO DEPARTMENT INTERIOR FOR OSN AND DASTA
STATE FOR IO/UNP
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR HOLDRIDGE (NSC)

SUBJECT: POLITICAL EDUCATION AND STATUS QUESTION

SENATOR TUN (YAP) HAS INTRODUCED BILL (AUG 22) CALLING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A 12-MEMBER POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION. COPIES SENT. COMMISSION WOULD HAVE PURPOSE OF "PREPARING THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA TO EXERCISE THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN A PLEBISCITE TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE."

COMMISSION'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD INCLUDE:

- A. EVALUATION OF DEGREE TO WHICH PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA ~~KNOW~~ UNDERSTAND THE VARIOUS ~~EXISTING~~ FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES;
- B. EVALUATION OF CAPABILITIES OF PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE;
- C. RECOMMENDATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AND PROPOSING OF LEGISLATION TO INSURE THAT PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA ARE PREPARED FOR A PLEBISCITE ON THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND ALSO TO INSURE THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO ASSUME THE BURDENS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE.

COMMISSION TO REPORT TO CONGRESS BY FEB 1, 1973.

IN SPEECH TO HOUSE AUG 22 REPRESENTATIVE OLTER PAUL (PONAPE) TRACED STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF WORK OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AND WELCOMED CREATION OF OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND "APPOINTMENT OF HIGH LEVEL PERSONS TO OVERSEE THE NEGOTIATIONS." CALLING FOR AGREEMENT WITH COMMITTEE'S WORK, PAUL SAID "WE ARE ENTERING INTO FINAL PHASES WHICH WILL TERMINATE THE PRESENT TRUSTEESHIP AND ESTABLISH A NEW, VITAL, UNIQUE AND EQUITABLE ASSOCIATION AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT."

TRENT

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