

UNCLASSIFIED

Q 15
5,6

1972

The Marianas -- Under Various Alternatives

1. Commonwealth Proposal Alone
 - a. Marianas seek close association with U.S. as soon as possible, to gain citizenship.
 - b. November election will likely center on status issue:
 - (1) Sen. Palacios likely to be in trouble over stand against close association with U.S.
 - (2) Rep. Palacios, his brother, may suffer charges of guilt by association, though his personal position unreadable as yet.
 - (3) Rep. Manglona resigning after session, so his seat will open up.
 - c. Marianas District Legislature may adopt resolution pro commonwealth, and could possibly hold another unofficial referendum on the issue, though nothing yet said about latter.
2. Independence Offer
 - a. Marianas, if anti-independence as believed, would probably seek to accept commonwealth proposal by itself, without regard to what other districts do.
 - b. Although a possible separation from rest of Micronesia would be a big step for Marianas, it would be extremely serious, as a practical matter for rest of Micronesia, as well. There is no great love between chamorros and other districts. But loss of economic resources of Saipan and Tinian (Tourist & Agricultural Development Potential) would be great, in addition to loss of government facilities in Saipan. Headquarters, as the seat of government, has been a unifying factor for other groups, despite Saipanese themselves. A central government established elsewhere

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED
ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER PRO-
VISIONS OF E.O. 12356 BY
YNGS D.Y. DOLAN, USN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OMSN

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

OMSN-03
03-411591

would tend, in my opinion, to increase divisions between people of other districts.

3. The Problem: What is Effect of Marianas Support and Acceptance of Commonwealth Proposal?

a. Solution I. Grant commonwealth status to Marianas with continuation of Trusteeship Agreement for remainder of TT.

(1) No U.N. precedent for splitting Trust Territory with termination of Agreement with respect to only part of territory. This suggests U.S. policy of divide and conquer.

(2) Advantages.

(a) Complete protection of U.S. interests -- commonwealth of Marianas and continuation of Trusteeship in other areas.

(b) Would satisfy the desires of the best friends the U.S. has in Micronesia, but would hold threat of veto of Trusteeship termination over others in hopes.

(3) Disadvantages.

(a) No precedent in Trusteeship system, though argument could clearly be made that no other Trust Territory is as diverse as TTPI.

(b) Opens U.S. to charge of divide and conquer.

(c) Possible difficulty of getting through United Nations, especially without termination of whole agreement.

b. Solution II. Termination of Agreement, Marianas Commonwealth, other districts according to individual choice with independence option.

(1) Advantages.

- (a) U.N. precedent -- separation of Ruanda-Urundi (?) into two nations.
- (b) Largely (?) satisfies U.S. strategic interests
- (c) Quickest means of attaining solution to status question.
- (d) Separation would result from expressed wishes of people -- wishes have already been expressed in Marianas for many years in unofficial plebescites.
- (e) Might result in more realistic thinking by other districts about feasibility of independence, especially if free association, as defined, not offered.
- (f) In any case, financial needs of remainder of Micronesia would make base agreements and neutral zone agreements easy to obtain in almost all cases. The U.S. may take flak in Micronesia now, but no other nation would be considered more favorably.