

Status

HICOMTERPACIS
SAIPAN

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI
USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLASSIFIED

STATUS LNO
TRENT

SECSTATE
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO
JCS/SECDEF
CINCPAC
WHITE HOUSE

01
7

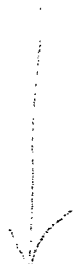
FROM STATUS LNO 14

PASS TO DEPT INTERIOR FOR OSN (ACTION) AND DASTA (INFO)
STATE FOR EA, IO/UNP, L/UNA
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA
WHITE HOUSE FOR HOLDRIDGE (RSC)
JUSTICE FOR OLC (MARCUSE)
CANBERRA FOR POL

SUBJ: CATHOLIC BISHOP CALLS FOR MICRONESIAN POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT
AND "CAREFUL CONSIDERATION" OF DRAFT COMPACT SECTION ON
MILITARY LAND USE

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY MARTIN J.
NEYLON, S.J., BISHOP OF CAROLINE AND MARSHALL ISLANDS, RESIDENT IN
TRUK, AS CARRIED IN PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, GUAM, JAN 17. NOTEWORTHY ARE
PARAS FOUR AND FIVE URGING THAT "SERIOUS THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO
THE COMPLEX QUESTION OF THE CONSEQUENCES ON MICRONESIAN SOCIETY OF A
LARGE MILITARY PRESENCE IN THESE ISLANDS."

BEGIN QUOTE



LNO

mvt 1/19/73

(mvt)

15
7

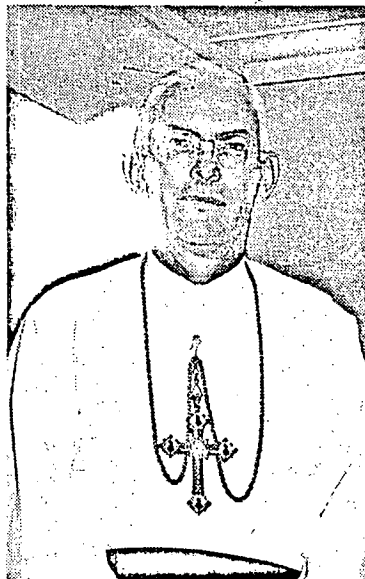
Bishop Urges Micronesians To Get Involved In Politics

Dear beloved people,
Peace of Christ

Micronesia is now in the process of planning for its future. We Christians are impelled by love to do all in our power to make Micronesia a people which will continue to develop according to Christ's will. This means, among other things, that we should strive for a political status which will best foster the spiritual and human growth, the economic well-being and the dignity of the people of Micronesia.

It is of the greatest importance that the people of Micronesia be convinced of their inalienable right to determine their own future. This is a right not just of a few citizens but of all Micronesians. This is a right which no other nation, not even the United Nations, can exercise for us. Hence we should not leave for others to determine for Micronesia what future course it will take.

Furthermore it is a matter of Christian concern to become involved. To keep oneself aloof from the issues involved in Micronesia's political future is not Christian. To remain unconcerned about the future direction of Micronesia is to fail in Christian charity toward our fellow citizens and toward our children, and ignore our responsibility to work with lively hope for the coming of Christ's Kingdom. Nor should the ordinary citizen give way to



MARTIN J. NEYLON, S.J.

feelings of helplessness, thinking he can have no influence on a matter as important as this one. All should realize that they do have the power to influence the form of government that will be theirs.

Properly to be involved in deciding our future, we must strive to become well-informed about the options and the consequences of each option. The options are complicated; they involve consequences, far reaching and very hard to evaluate at this time. For example, serious thought should be given to the complex question of the consequences on

Micronesian society of a large military presence in these islands. Certain sections of the Draft Compact need very careful consideration, e.g. Section 303.

"The Government of the United States shall have.....full freedom of use and access to all facilities and areas used for the conduct of military affairs."

While we trust the Government of the United States in its conduct of military affairs, and though we may think it wise to entrust the defense of our islands to the United States, at the same time no man may rightly cede his property to another without some agreement on how the property may be used, especially in a process so devastating as modern warfare.

In a word, human dignity and Christian concern require that we use our God-given freedom to determine our future, not acting out of ignorance or prejudice or bias, but approaching the issues with an open mind and in a spirit of brotherly concern for our fellow Micronesians, as well as for all in the world community who may be affected by our decisions.

I ask all to join with me in prayer to the Holy Spirit that He guide all of the people of Micronesia in this time of decision.

Devotedly in Our Lord,
/s/Martin J. Neylon, S.J.