

# Micronesian Group Sees U.N. Mission

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With great politeness and a bit of ambiguity, students from the Trust Territory of the Pacific yesterday told United Nations observers here about their desire for a self-governing Micronesia.

Only about 30 Micronesian students showed up on the University of Hawaii's Mānoa campus to meet the four-member United Nations Visiting Mission which is making its eighth annual tour of Micronesia to report to the Trusteeship Council.

There are 270 Micronesian students at the University and about 400 more in private colleges and institutions in Hawaii.

Jack Fritz, a spokesman for the students, told the UN mission that the 2:30 p.m. starting time of the meeting makes it impossible for most students, still in classes, to attend.

P. BLANC, of France, chairman of the mission, said, "We came here to listen, to find out what problems and aspirations you have."

The meeting opened with a long period of hesitation as students asked members of the mission about the exact nature of their purpose.

"We are not sure what you are looking for," a student from Truk said. "What do you do with the information you get? What are the results of your past visits?"

Blanc explained that the mission is "investigating and reporting on the political, economic and social conditions of the Trust Territory to the UN" (which has been responsible for a United States-administered trusteeship arrangement in Micronesia since the end of World War II) and that "we believe that our report will be useful in formulating the future of the islands."

R. Ashwin of Australia and P. Hinchcliffe of England, two of the delegation's

members, asked the students if they have followed the negotiations between the U.S. government and the Congress of Micronesia about the future status of the islands.

"Not too closely," one student replied, "we have to study and do stuff in the schools here and have little free time."

THE RUSSIAN member of the mission, V. Issraelyon, said that "we know that Micronesia was dominated by several powers in the past and realize that you have a critical approach to the U.S. — and I am sure you have things besides the press con- reasons for it — but what we'd like to find out is what you want for the future, what your aspirations are."

"Independence is everybody's ultimate goal," a student from Ponape said. "There is nothing more beautiful than men ruling themselves, a nation that's free and independent."

"But if Micronesia becomes independent today, what about our economy, our educational system and the rest? The United States hasn't taught us how to be independent, hasn't given us the tools and training to run our own economy and political system."

AN OFFICIAL of the Trust Territory government told the Star-Bulletin after the meeting that its tone and essence reflected the general opinion on the islands.

Commenting on the matter of dependency, the official mentioned that the ever-growing government payroll (7,000 persons out of a total population of 110,000, that is, more than 6 per cent, work for the government) is one of the problems.

"Tourism and agriculture take time and investment to develop, but you can start working for the government and in just two weeks, you have the first return — your first pay check," he said.

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