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STATE DEPARTMENT (CU) PROGRAM FOR MICRONESIA

A. Description:

(1) Program

The Department of State's educational and cultural exchange program worldwide includes a great variety of grants. They can be broadly divided into academic grants (for graduate students, teachers and professors, both American and foreign) and "leader" grants, formally known as International Visitor grants. Under the leader category people of other nations are brought to the U.S. for short periods of consultation and observation, either alone or in small groups; and Americans are sent out as short-term lecturers, usually to several countries.

At the present time the Department's exchange program for Micronesia is limited to International Visitor grants. The Department has had a very small program over a period of years to bring Micronesian "leaders" to the U.S. on 30-day tours. For FY 1973 the program was doubled, bringing it to 8 of these grants. Four will be used for a group tour for Micronesians in the mass media field.

(2) Selection

Grantees in this category should be in established positions of leadership, and should not have extensively visited the U.S. recently. The Department prefers that they not have intensive previous experience in the U.S., but is prepared to accept them if their position warrants an updating of the U.S. experience. They should be young enough to offer promise of some future years of leadership.

They need not be fluent in English. For most countries the Department's Division of Language Services provides interpreters but this is not possible for Micronesia. Up to the present the Department of the Interior has funded Micronesian interpreters and on occasion escorts for our grantees. The system has worked well. Sometimes the interpreter or escort is a leader in his own right, giving the trip a double impact.

(3) Objectives

The overall objective of the State Department's educational and cultural exchange program, stated in worldwide, general terms, is to strengthen patterns of informal communication in ways which will favorably influence the environment within which U.S. foreign

policy is carried out and help build the human foundations of the "structure of peace." Attached is the current statement describing the CU Program Concept, which states this objective more concretely and describes the principles against which projects are to be measured.

It should be noted that the State Department program is quite clearly distinct from technical training as provided by the Agency for International Development.

B. Funding:

The Department's exchange program is funded through annual appropriation under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

C. Criteria for Evaluation:

(1) Relation to Interior

The Department's program enhances the basic Interior program in the Trust Territory. It brings persons in positions of established leadership to the United States for observation and consultation. Selection is carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner, with the concurrence of the Status Liaison Officer, and the grantees' programs are worked out within a framework set forth by the Office of the High Commissioner.

(2) Effect on U.S. Position

The objectives of the Department of State program are long-range. However, they undoubtedly enhance the U.S. position in the political status negotiations by increasing understanding of the United States. Since most if not all Micronesian grantees visit Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in the course of their grant experience, the grants have the potential of contributing materially to the U.S. negotiation position, providing as they do an opportunity to view some of the alternatives.

(3) Effect on Self-Government

(a) and (b) Because the grants reinforce established leadership and presumably enhance self-awareness and self-confidence, they could be said to promote self-government, but certainly of a gradual movement.

(4) Effect on Unity

(a) and (b) Only in a very general way could the Department of State grants be said to have any effect on unity or separatism. These issues are not touched upon in grant planning, except

insofar as they may be brought up in the grantees' visit to the US/UN Mission in New York, or as federal-state relationships may be observed during the course of the grantees' tour.

(5) Cost

(a) Each leader grant costs \$2,533, plus costs of programming, insurance, etc. If the grantee is of high government rank, the cost rises slightly to increase per diem by \$5. This appears a fairly low figure for a 30-day exposure to the United States of key figures from the various island groups.

(b) The cost to the Trust Territory is slight - merely the grantee's salary during the 30-day absence from his work.

(6) Other Benefits

In addition to the program's potential for development of leadership, within whatever system may evolve in the area, the program establishes links of communication between Americans and Micronesians - notably links between professional groups and individuals, but also links of a more personal nature through the home hospitality and programming assistance provided by American understanding of Micronesia. For example, most grantees visit the University of California at Santa Cruz, where they meet with faculty and students of the Department of South Pacific Studies.

(7) Size

The FY 1973 program provides eight leader grants. The increase (almost double) over the previous year was made in accordance with State Department political evaluation of the relative importance of Micronesia in political terms.

(8) a. Continuing the Program

Under the Department's program a small number of officials from the various island groups in key positions, from such fields as politics, education, public administration, the mass media and law, can be given an intensive introduction to the American system in general, and as it functions in their own professional field. As stated in the program objectives, these grants can help to develop more accurate perceptions of political, economic and cultural realities; can help develop trans-national linkages based on shared concerns; can work to increase the quality and efficiency of inter-cultural dialogue.

No disadvantages are seen.

b. Terminating the Program

No advantages are seen, except a saving of some \$20,000 for expenditure in exchange elsewhere in the area.

The disadvantages would be the loss of opportunity to work toward achievement of the objectives suggested above.

(9) Opportunities for Improvement

The primary need is for improved selection. Steps have already been taken to overcome some of the earlier problems and it is believed that future selections will be made more in line with the Department's worldwide selection requirements.

A further need is for increased efficiency in processing nominations, forwarding program plans, transmitting travel plans, etc. These administrative procedures also seem to be improving and need not at this point be cause for serious concern.

(10) Overall Assessment and Recommendation

The leader program has in just a few years brought a number of key Micronesian figures to the United States for a very useful exposure to American government and society. Selection has not always been good, in large part because of a tendency in the past to reward friends of the United States with grants.

In the future a more even distribution of grants must be worked out, with a balance between pro- and anti-U.S. elements, and with particular emphasis given to those with open minds who will play an important role in determining or influencing Micronesia's political status.

It will also be necessary to put further effort into making the U.S. experience relevant to the Micronesian situation.

The Department believes that the program is moderately effective as it now operates, with a good potential for becoming extremely effective in the next year or two.

Attachment:

The CU Program Concept

Clearances: CU/EA - FBTenny
EA - JDorrance
IO/UNP - CSylvester

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