

Political Ed.


TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS      Office of the High Commissioner, Saipan

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TO : High Commissioner

DATE: 5/22/73

FROM : Carl Heine

Thru : Director, Public Affairs Rec'd 5/29  
from Amb W -  
MWTSUBJECT: Some thoughts on the General Approach to Political Education in Micronesia.

Since I was assigned this special assignment beginning on the 14 of this month, I have reviewed about all of the available relevant materials as well as memorandums from various departments and divisions within the Executive Branch plus other written materials by scholars related to the field of political education.

One aspect of this whole issue has emerged beyond any doubt - that the responsibility of conducting a program of political education in Micronesia rests with the Executive branch of the government. The Congress of Micronesia has simply set certain broad guidelines, for which we shall follow, but left enough room for the Executive Branch to decide and interpret the means and the proper course of approach with regard to political education. In view of these broad mandates, it can be stated with reasonable justification that political education is one of the pre-conditions that the people of Micronesia must have before they exercise their right of self-determination in a plebescite sometime in the near future.

Considering the critical nature of political education, the great public demand for a program of political education, and the pressure from both the United Nations and the Congress of Micronesia; it is felt that the time has come for the Executive Branch to get moving in this direction, that is to move away from the "rationalization stage" to the "production stage". There are more than ample data, informations, guidelines, and mandates on this subject, and in my judgement, the Department of Public Affairs has the means and the capability to proceed with this program. There should not be any difficulty in putting the first phase of this program in operation sometime next month.

It can be reasonably expected that the forthcoming meeting in New York with the Trusteeship Council, the issue of political education will be discussed. In spite of that, it would not be premature for the High Commissioner in his annual message to that body, to make a positive statement regarding the operation of a political education program in Micronesia.

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Because of the highly political nature of this program, I feel that before the program is developed we must first come up with a precise definition of what do we mean by political education. After considering all the possible definitions, the following is offered:

The ultimate goal and objective of political education in Micronesia is to bring about as much awareness as possible on the part of the general public of (1) the adopted, (Congress of Micronesia), political alternatives available to the people of Micronesia (2) the likely economic, political and cultural consequences or the merits and demerits of a choice favoring one particular status alternative.

The scope and emphasis of the program of political education will center on the two major political alternatives adopted by the Congress of Micronesia namely, Free Association, and Independence, furthermore a program on Commonwealth and Status Quo should also be developed so as to reflect the political realities in the Marianas and the Trust Territory in general. The partially draft Compact of Free Association as agreed to by the two negotiating delegations, will be explained under the program devoted to Free Association.

Based on the above premises we intend to develop a set of five program of political education for Micronesia.

Program I - Introductory (briefly explaining the historical conditions leading up to the quest for change in status)

Program II - Free Association (briefly tell the story in straight simple language the meaning and the economic, political and cultural consequences of this choice)

This sequence will continue with Program III - On Independence, Program IV - on Commonwealth, and Program V - on the Status Quo.

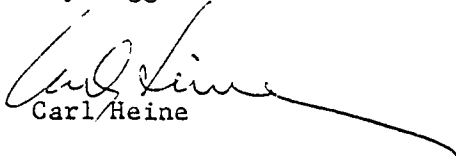
The methods and means of carrying out these programs will be centered on the use of radio media, and the utilization of large and small public gathering to be arranged in various districts and at various levels. It is our intention to develop these programs by pre-recording them here in headquarters and then distribute them to all the radio broadcast centers with instructions for them to follow. These programs will be air in English as well as in the local vernaculars so as to achieve their maximum benefits. It is our intention also to develop a small booklet of instruction which will contain the same messages recorded in tapes, as well as procedures to be used in group discussion by leaders in the district centers and in the outlying islands.

In order to test the effectiveness of this program, I have arranged with Mr. Daniel Smith, (a doctoral student from Stanford who is studying the impact of television on small children) whereby, one of the programs will be developed in exactly the same manner it will be presented throughout Micronesia. This particular program will be pre-arranged with local radio and T.V. stations here on Saipan within the next 10 days. After the program has been telecast and aired, he will then do a poll locally with students, Carolinians and Chamorros. He thinks he will be able to give me the results within 2 days. The results should indicate whether the program had an affirmative or negative impact on the listeners or whether they had learned something from it.

If such results are positive and encouraging we will then proceed and develop all the programs and have them ready for distribution and for broadcast by the middle of next month. We think the results will be positive.

There are those who seem to believe that there are two sides to the program of political education. However, I feel that the issue of political education has only one side to it not two (American & Micronesian sides). The side we are prepared to present to the people of Micronesia is the side that the two negotiating delegations have agreed to in the past six rounds of negotiations. This administration has that middle of the road obligation and responsibility not only from the Congress of Micronesia, but also as administering authority under the U.N. Trusteeship Agreement, to politically educate the people of Micronesia. This is precisely what we intend to do in this program.

Any suggestions and ideas from you will be extremely helpful.

  
Carl Heine

*Hicom:*  
Would this <sup>not</sup> be the sort of things that we should first check it out with Ambassador Williams before we proceed any further on it?  
Strick