

UN Visitors Slug At TT Rule

Daily News Staff and Wires

A special mission of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations yesterday urged the establishment of a loose federation in Micronesia and criticized U.S. administration of the Trust Territory, saying that political and economic progress had been slow and that the U.S. had made no real effort to stem separatist movements, particularly in the Marianas.

The group—composed of members from Australia, Britain, France and the Soviet Union who visited the TT earlier this year—admitted that residents of the Marianas are determined “to follow a different path from the rest of Micronesia.” But they cautioned against giving up the idea of a compromise under which the Marianas could be included in a future Micronesian federation.

On Saipan, where U.S. and Marianas officials are meeting at the present time on the question of future status, there was no immediate reaction to the report.

The U.S. people—including the High Commissioner—declined comment and said it would be more likely comment would come from the U.S. representative at the United Nations. The Marianas side wanted to discuss the matter as a group before issuing a statement.

The mission concluded that in view of the slowness of status talks between the United States and the Congress of Micronesia, the trusteeship agreement was unlikely to be terminated “for another two or three years.” It also noted that once this

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agreement comes to an end, the U.S. could no longer claim its right to a “strategic zone” in the territory.

“Whatever solution is finally adopted,” the mission says in a 134-page report, “it is important that the basic issues, including the question of which lands, if any, will be retained by the United States as military retention lands, should be settled before the trusteeship agreement comes to an end.” When this happens, it adds, “The idea of a strategic zone in the sense used in the (U.N.) charter vanishes at the same time.”

In its political conclusions, the mission objects to taking the Marianas separatism as final.

“We certainly cannot deny that the great majority of the Mariana islanders are in favor of separation,” it says. “But we wonder whether it is necessary as yet to assume that a form of agreement on the future status for Micronesia as a whole cannot be negotiated which will in the end prove acceptable to the Marianas. . .

“The movement in favor of separation has gone a long way. It is a pity that the administering authority did not do anything significant to check it long ago.”

The mission therefore recommends ending separate talks between the Marianas and the United States for the present. To continue them, it says, “would destroy the prospect of achieving any compromise solutions.”

But U.S. officials at Saipan yesterday were of the opinion that the Marianas separatist issue is by now a foregone conclusion, and pointed out it was already discussed in detail at a hearing in the U.N. Trusteeship Council last year.

The mission also points to “centrifugal tendencies” in other districts of Micronesia and urges the United States and the Congress of Micronesia to “give the most serious attentions to the question of the unity of the territory.”