

CONFIDENTIAL

May 24, 1973

03

7

MEMORANDUM

To: Ambassador Williams
Mr. Wilson
Capt. Crowe

From: Status LNO: MVTrent

Subject: Catholic Mission's Political Education Seminar, June 3-9,
Kolonias, Ponape

Ref: My memorandum to you of April 27 (attached)

A brief recapitulation of our information on this subject is as follows:

On April 26 Father Francis X. Hezel, S.J., of the Jesuit Mission in Truk, talked with me in my office about his plans for the seminar, which he would chair, for a group of some 12-14 persons from all over the TT, including the principal Jesuit priests, to discuss ways, means, and content of political education in the broadest sense for Micronesia. He said his plan envisaged follow-up meetings in the districts, eventually spreading to further informal discussions in the outlying islands. I supplied Father Hezel with information, both oral and written, on the course and background of status talks, and he asked me if I might find it possible to attend the seminar. I said I would be very interested in doing so, and he said he would follow up his tentative (and, I am sure, impromptu) invitation with a more definite communication.

This conversation was reported to you in my memorandum under reference, copy attached.

On May 3 Father Hezel sent me a letter on "Micronesian Seminar" letterhead, copy attached, in effect withdrawing the tentative invitation, explaining that "some of the participants and members of the steering committee...expressed a fear that the presence of a representative of the Department of State might have an inhibiting effect on the discussion."

Under date of May 15 came a form letter, also on "Micronesian Seminar" letterhead, signed by Father Hezel as Director, enclosing information on the seminar, noting that it was "created under the auspices of the Catholic Mission for the study of contemporary problems in Micronesia." The letter closed with the suggestion: "You might wish to use this information for publication or broadcast purposes." Copy of this

CONFIDENTIAL

03 - 031038

letter and of the substantive information are attached.

The list of 16 participants includes in addition to four Jesuit priests of Ponape, Truk, Yap and Palau:

- 3 Senators (Mangefel, Nakayama, Salii)
- 1 Congressman (Resio Moses, Ponape)
- 5 high level Micronesian employees of the TT central administration
- 1 OEO lawyer (Alan Burdick, Ponape)
Francisco Uludong
- Dr. William Vitarelli (University of Guam)

The bibliography, as you will note, includes both Cisco Uludong's Analysis of the Draft Compact and Jim Wilson's paper on Applicability of the Principle of Self-Determination to the TTPI, with Julius Nyerere speaking up for the African experience.

The program indicates extensive interest in the subject of sovereignty. One session is slated to discuss "Military Control and Cession of Sovereign Rights."

An explanatory statement included in the information says: "The purpose of the seminar is to consider some of the moral issues related to the political alternatives that are presented to Micronesia today... It is hoped that a consensus statement expressing a stand on several of the moral issues might be drafted during the final two days of the seminar. The proceedings of the seminar will eventually be published in pamphlet form and distributed to all who are engaged in political education programs throughout the Trust Territory."

I do not know whether your recent conversation with Bishop Neylon may have touched on this seminar. It seems most unfortunate that, as of now at least, we are ineffect barred from a presence and a voice at a gathering which has a potential for very considerable ~~influence~~ influence in the determination of future political status in Micronesia. I therefore suggest that you consider sending to Bishop Neylon a telegram along the following lines:

"I am interested to hear of the forthcoming Seminar on Political Status which I understand is scheduled to take place under direction of Father Hezel at Ponape June 3-9. I would very much hope that opportunity may be extended to my representative in Micronesia, Miss Mary Vance Trent (or _____ of my staff) to participate in at least a part of the program."

Attachments

CONFIDENTIAL

021033