

...because this is a 'good government'

In an unexpected side development to the Trust Territory status talks, the weekly Micronitor newspaper published in Majuro—a frequent and outspoken critic of the island's U.S. administration — has issued a two-page "position paper" calling for a five-year moratorium on any talk of new status.

The unsigned position paper

says that in recent years "there has been a decided improvement in the types of persons being hired as expatriates. It is no longer valid to categorize the many Americans and other foreign nationals who work for the government as people who come here for extended vacations..."

"At the forefront of this
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Still 'Beautiful'

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changed government is the present High Commissioner, Edward Johnston, who perhaps more than any other High Commissioner has been subjected to...almost overwhelming pressure from the Congress of Micronesia on one hand and the constant array of Washington 'trouble-shooters' who come to Micronesia with pre-conceived notions of how badly managed the islands and the administration are."

The paper adds: "Micronesians now have a benevolent well-intentioned government. And while this is true for the present, the fact that the government only recently became good government must be looked on as a very dangerous situation because of the fact that there are many forces operating in the perimeter of Micronesia which are anxious to capitalize on this new face."

The Micronitor lists the forces as: The United Nations,

which "knows nothing about what is going on in Micronesia," and reads the fact "that of 12 original trust territories only two now remain to be an indication of a job well done;" the U.S. government, which relegates "Micronesia and Micronesians to a position of subservience with regard to national security interests and paranoia of the present leadership in Washington" and thirdly, "Micronesians themselves who no longer function as Micronesians."

It continues: "If these so-called Micronesians would stop for a while and listen to what the real people of Micronesia are saying they would find out that there is no cry to terminate the trusteeship agreement, that there is no hatred or feeling of burden being borne because of the presence of the Trust Territory government, that the people are

scared by the talk they hear now, that their children now finally have an opportunity to go to school, that no one is starving (and) that no one is actually oppressed."

The Micronitor defines these "so-called" Micronesians as being partially in the Congress of Micronesia, some holding high positions in the TT government and some as "eminently successful businessmen."

"We should call a moratorium of our own on the political status negotiations and stop all this foolish talk of a plebescite within two years, or of completing the final portions of the draft compact before the end of the year. Wait five years before mentioning the subject again. Let's stick for the present with the arrangement we have now. Relax. Micronesia is a beautiful place," the paper concludes.