

Handwritten: "Take" in a circle, "PCE" with a line through it.

# TT Status Education Charge: 'It's Propaganda!'

By Diane Maddex  
Daily News Staff Writer

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With those seven words Sen. Lazarus Saliu of the Congress of Micronesia describes the U.S. version of a political education script designed to discuss political alternatives for the people of Micronesia.

Saliu, chairman of the Joint Committee on Future Status, charged last month that U.S. status negotiators were delaying political education.

And now the U.S. has returned its retyped version of a proposed radio broadcast. The first script had been prepared in the Trust Territory's Department of Public Affairs.

Saliu said the revised version was delivered to him by Franklin Haydn Williams, chief U.S. negotiator, during their recent meeting on Guam. It reportedly also was reviewed by James Wilson of the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations and Stanley Carpenter, deputy assistant secretary of the Interior.

"Their whole concept in the script downplays the importance of the military," said Saliu. "It also doesn't point out what we consider to be the basic defects of a commonwealth."

Saliu admitted, however, that he has reservations about the original draft, too. Chief among these, he said, are that it "doesn't emphasize the negative aspects of commonwealth either. And it also makes some editorial comments about the disadvantages of independence."

The draft was written by Carl Heine, former staff director of the joint committee who was assigned to the Public Affairs Department for this purpose.

Both High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston and the department decline to compare the two versions or publicly comment on them in any way. It is their feeling that the Micronesian and U.S. status delegations must resolve conflicts over the political education program between themselves.

According to Saliu, this is essentially what he and Williams agreed to during their last meeting, when they decided that each would have a veto over the political education material.

Saliu expects the matter to come up next at a meeting with Williams in Hawaii planned for Oct. 8. He indicated, however, that a resolution of the problem was not likely until the Political Education Commission created by the Congress is staffed—probably sometime next year after the Congress meets.

This nine-member commission, currently funded at \$10,000, would be composed of six members of the Congress and three TT citizens appointed by the High Commissioner, said a Congress staff member.

"I'd rather see the executive branch do the political education program," said Saliu. "It's their job. But once the commission gets to work, the TT will just be the operating arm for the program. That will take them off the hook."

Added Saliu: "I don't think anyone in his right mind would want to go in there now and take the bull by the horns. The program is so messed up now."

"Once one side begins to edit, we have an impossible situation—like we have now."

What they have now are two versions of a script that was developed, according to Heine, "mainly for the consumption of the average Micronesian in remote islands and villages." The program was to include radio broadcasts over the government's stations and printed booklets.

The U.S. text follows the original framework and order of six sections or programs: a brief historical background, free association, independence, commonwealth, status quo and "questions and issues."

There are deletions, additions, condensations and word changes in the U.S. script.

A Congress aide who says that the result is a "misrepresentation" believes that 75 per cent of the original has been altered.

Two structural differences can be found in the texts.

One, the U.S. moved an initial discussion of free association from the introductory section to the free association section, where it condensed some of the original and made explanatory additions of its own.

Two, the U.S. changed the commonwealth section from a discussion of a 1970 proposal rejected by the Congress of Micronesia to the proposal now under consideration by the Marianas.

Other evident differences between the texts include the two sides' varying estimation of how strong the desire for independence in Micronesia is. The Heine script characterizes this as a "growing movement" and calls independence one of the two status "mandates" given the Joint Committee. The U.S. speaks in terms of some independence "advocates" and states that "what is meant by full independence, however, is still to be defined."

The Heine script also calls the disadvantages of independence "very substantial," while the U.S. text does not retain this wording.

The U.S. added two paragraphs to the status quo program to indicate that it is "legally and theoretically possible" for the present United Nations trusteeship to continue indefinitely, thus presenting this as a fourth status alternative.

This text also emphasizes the role of the UN more and the U.S. "security obligations."

Both scripts use the following text to introduce each program (the U.S. cut it from the first program): "The Trust Territory government takes no sides in the political issues on the future of Micronesia. Its task is simply to present the issues as they are, not to interpret them or draw any conclusions from them."

The majority of the differences between the scripts

do not lend themselves to easy extraction and comparison.

A few that can be pointed out, by section:

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Micronesia was "first discovered by Spain." (TT) Micronesia's first extended experience with foreign rule began when Spain explored ...." (U.S.)

The U.S. "submitted the present trusteeship agreement to the United Nations" (TT). The U.S. "was given responsibility for Micronesia under a trusteeship agreement with the UN..." (U.S.)

"...Micronesians became more and more demanding for greater self-government." (TT). "...Micronesians were given greater self-government." (U.S.)

"...The Administering Authority gave its consent, and the Congress of Micronesia was created." (TT). "...The Administering Authority created the Congress of Micronesia." (U.S.)

#### FREE ASSOCIATION

"Free association is an arrangement which enables a people to advance from a colonial status or a trusteeship status to a new and free status which satisfies their basic aspirations to rule or govern themselves and protect their individuality and cultural characteristics. At the same time, it recognizes the practical considerations which must apply to a territory of small population and limited resources." (TT)

"Free association is an agreement between two political groups which enables a people to move from a political status that permitted them only limited participation in government to a political status that permits them complete management of their own internal government. At the same time it allows them to continue to receive help and assistance from the former Administering Authority." (U.S.)

"To date there has been no agreement or compromise" on unilateral termination of a free association/agreement (TT). Micronesia would be free "to terminate the free association relationship after a period of years if the people wished it." (U.S.)

#### INDEPENDENCE

"...is not derived from the trusteeship agreement but rather...the trusteeship agreement acknowledges its prior existence." (TT). "... is certainly a status option." "... is viewed by some as the ultimate objective of the trusteeship system." (U.S.)

"... as viewed by the Congress of Micronesia (it) is the political status most in accord with the intent of the trusteeship agreement." (TT). "While recognizing that independence was a possible alternative, the Future Political Status Commission recommended to the Congress of Micronesia in July, 1969, that it be considered by Micronesians only in the event that free association with the United States were not possible." (U.S.)

There are those in Micronesia who prefer "complete independence..." (TT). "... who want something -- want something else." (U.S.)

#### COMMONWEALTH

"For the benefit of those who may still be interested in learning more about this proposal..." (TT). "For the benefit of those who are still interested..." (U.S.)

"... five of the six districts of Micronesia rejected the proposal." (TT). "... so far only one of the six districts of Micronesia has expressed a clear desire to accept this alternative." (U.S.)

#### STATUS QUO

"... Whether this (trusteeship) agreement is terminated or not is up to both the people of Micronesia and the Administering Authority." (TT). "While the language of the trusteeship agreement guarantees that Micronesia has the right to self-determination, the people of Micronesia are not bound by any time limit in choosing a new form of government. ...Indeed, there are many in Micronesia who prefer that the trusteeship continue for a few more years until the people have a better idea of what form of government they really want." (U.S.)

#### QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

Q: What about our lands under free association? Who would control them?

A: "... certain lands in Palau, Marianas and the Marshalls would be negotiated with the U.S. government. The U.S. has some military requirements in these districts." (TT). "... the use of certain lands in Palau would be negotiated with the U.S. government for limited military purposes and the presently leased areas in the Marshalls would be retained." (U.S.)

According to Heine, the TT script "was written in the most simple and straightforward manner." Vernacular versions were to be prepared in the districts.

"It is contemplated that a second series could be developed about November or December," he wrote Salii. "The present series should be able to satisfy the present need now existing in Micronesia."

Pol Ed

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## The Script With A Difference

# 'Propaganda!' Says Salii

(Continued from page 1)

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**QUESTIONS AND ISSUES**  
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A: "... certain lands in Patau, Marianas and the Marshalls would be negotiated with the U.S. government. The U.S. has some military requirements in these districts." (TT). "... the use of certain lands in Patau would be negotiated with the U.S. government for limited military purposes and the presently leased areas in the Marshalls would be retained." (U.S.)

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## Another Question...

SAIPAN—While the Congress of Micronesia was wrestling with the United States over a political education program, the chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission did likewise with the Saipan municipal legislature over a resolution calling for a speed-up in a similar program on the separate Marianas status proposal.

Addressing himself to a resolution that has since been passed, Sen. Edward Pangelinan asked in a letter to the legislature's speaker that a "slight change" be made in the document's last sentence.

"The reference to transmit a copy of the resolution to the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia," he said, "appears to be somewhat inappropriate."

The Congress of Micronesia has gone on record expressing its lack of sympathy to the intent and purposes of the establishment of the Marianas Political Status Commission. Perhaps a compromise could be made by transmitting a copy of the resolution to the representatives of the Marianas in the joint committee rather than to the chairman of that committee.

Sen. Pangelinan is one of these representatives. He said he supports the resolution's intent, though the commission already has plans for a political education program to be conducted throughout the Marianas.

