

'Think Tank' Studying TT

WASHINGTON (MNS) — A private research organization in Washington is in the midst of a long-term study of American policy toward Micronesia.

The study is sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a privately-funded affiliate at the huge Carnegie Foundation. Since this past summer a team of researchers has been working under the direction of Don McHenry, a former State Department official. The team expects to produce a report on its findings by next June. It could have considerable impact.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is similar in its approach to the better-known Brookings Institute and other so-called "think tanks" that undertake in-depth studies of American problem areas.

In choosing Micronesia as an area for study, McHenry feels he has found an area that will be of growing significance for several

more years. "In the past most of our studies have looked backward," he explained. "Micronesia is the first one where we are trying to look forward. It has not been resolved. It is a problem which is going to take the United Nations, the U.S. congress and the U.S. executive branch many years to resolve. In addition, Micronesia overlaps a whole series of foreign policy questions, international security, relations in the United Nations, the U.S. role in the Far East, etc. It is a timely question. It provides us with an opportunity to have prepared a volume of information which the parties concerned can use as they face decisions in this area."

McHenry has put together a team of young people with excellent academic credentials, but with no background whatsoever in Micronesia. This, he says, was intentional. "We deliberately excluded people who had any direct experience in Micronesia. We wanted

people who have not formed any opinions about Micronesia." "We're trying to see if we can do the same kind of thing in foreign policy, that Ralph Nader has done in domestic policy," McHenry said.

All of the studies done by the endowment are done by students but always under the direction of a project director who has had extensive experience in government. McHenry spent eight years with the State Department and two years with the Brookings Institute prior to joining Carnegie.

What sort of document will the final report be? McHenry is hopeful that it will be

educational. He warns, however, that not all people involved with America's policy toward Micronesia will agree with it in all respects.

The study is undertaken with no preconceived notions, according to McHenry. He pointed out that a distinguished panel of legal experts, formed through the American Society for International Law, will meet periodically between now and next June to review the progress of the study and make suggestions. Their first meeting is scheduled for early next month.

"We may not accept all of their suggestions," he says, "but we are trying to avoid some

potential problems by venting the study as we go along. What we want is the benefit of their experience and perspectives we get into the actual preparation of the report." The panel included such people as Paul Warnke, an attorney and advisor to the Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Future Status, and Ruth Van Cleeve, former Interior Department Office of Territories head. McHenry plans to travel through the Trust Territory in January to gather background material, but most of the research and work is to be done in Washington. Copies of the study will be printed and made available after June 1974.