

Introduction and Summary

On November 1, 1973, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, with the endorsement of the Secretary of the Interior, announced the formal United States policy with respect to the public lands of the Micronesian Islands. 1/ The Policy Statement indicates the willingness of the United States to transfer the public lands in each district in accordance with the wishes of the people, as indicated by the district legislature.

The recipient must agree "to hold the public land in trust for the people of that district to be disposed of under terms determined by the district legislature" and to be bound by various other specific limitations and safeguards. Moreover, the recipient "must be legally qualified to receive and accept title to property, and if a legal entity is not available or is not qualified legally to receive real property under the law it must be created or become so qualified for this purpose."

We recommend that a private corporation be formed for the purpose of receiving and administering the public lands of the Marianas Islands in the manner contemplated

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1/ "Transfer of Title of Public Lands from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands Administration to the Districts: United States Policy and Necessary Implementing Courses of Action" [hereinafter cited as Policy Statement].