

~~#1~~/73

15  
7

PROGRAM: POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE AIR

---

#3 ... INDEPENDENCE

THEME: ESTABLISH 10 SECONDS THEN FADE UNDER.

ANNOUNCER: THIS PROGRAM, POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE AIR, IS A PUBLIC SERVICE PRESENTATION OF HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS. THE SERIES IS DESIGNED TO HELP BRING ABOUT AN AWARENESS OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

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.

THEME: BRING UP FOR FIVE SECONDS THEN FADE UNDER AND OUT.

NARRATOR: TODAY WE WILL LOOK INTO THE IDEA OF INDEPENDENCE AS A POLITICAL CHOICE FOR MICRONESIA. UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, THE UNITED STATES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLES OF MICRONESIA TOWARD SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF MICRONESIA AND THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE. EITHER ALTERNATIVE MUST REFLECT THE FREELY EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE CONCERNED.

WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT INDEPENDENCE WAS A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE, THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS RECOMMENDED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN JULY, 1969, THAT IT BE CONSIDERED BY MICRONESIANS ONLY IN THE EVENT THAT FREE

OB - 020368

(CONT)  
NARRATOR:

ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES WERE NOT POSSIBLE,  
IN THE CURRENT SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS THE REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAVE NOW BEEN INSTRUCTED BY  
THE CONGRESS TO NEGOTIATE AN INDEPENDENCE ALTERNATIVE ALONG  
WITH THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.

DURING THE FIRST FIVE ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE DISCUSSIONS  
BETWEEN U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE  
STATUS WERE LIMITED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPACT OF FREE  
ASSOCIATION, AND ALL OF THESE ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS WERE  
DIRECTED TOWARD THAT END.

WHEN THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS MET WITH U.S.  
REPRESENTATIVES AT BARBERS POINT, HAWAII FOR THE SIXTH ROUND  
OF TALKS, ITS MEMBERS ASKED THAT INDEPENDENCE, AS WELL AS FREE  
ASSOCIATION, BE CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, NEITHER SIDE WAS PREPARED  
TO DISCUSS THIS ALTERNATIVE IN ANY DEPTH AT THAT TIME.

MUSIC:

BRIDGE - UP BRIEFLY, THEN OUT UNDER

NARRATOR:

LET US LOOK AT INDEPENDENCE AND SEE WHAT IT COULD OR COULD NOT  
MEAN TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

INDEPENDENCE, FIRST OF ALL IS VIEWED BY SOME AS THE ULTIMATE  
OBJECTIVE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM.

IT HAS BEEN THE CHOICE MADE BY ALL OF THE NINE TRUST TERRITORIES  
WHICH HAVE SO FAR CHANGED THEIR STATUS. CERTAINLY IN THE EYES  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE AN HONORABLE AND  
FULLY ACCEPTABLE STATUS.

(CONT)

NARRATOR:

AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE, MICRONESIA WOULD POSSESS FULL LEGAL CONTROL OF ITS OWN AFFAIRS, ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER NATIONS OR GROUPS OF OTHER NATIONS WOULD REQUIRE MICRONESIAN CONSENT. IT COULD NEGOTIATE WITH ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IN ITS OWN BEHALF AND COULD JOIN ANY REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL BODY, BUT THERE WOULD BE NO GUARANTEES OF SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE TO MICRONESIA BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS UNLESS MICRONESIA WAS PREPARED TO AGREE TO CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS WITH THOSE POWERS. ALTHOUGH THE REALITIES OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE WOULD LIKELY OBLIGE THE MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE AWAY CERTAIN RIGHTS IN EXCHANGE FOR CERTAIN BENEFITS, SUCH DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE BY MICRONESIANS AND NOT BY OTHERS ACTING ON THEIR BEHALF.

THERE ARE OF COURSE DISADVANTAGES TO INDEPENDENCE, THE MAJORITY OF THEM COME, NOT FROM POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, BUT FROM ECONOMIC FACTORS. THE LACK OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THE SMALL POPULATION, GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCES BETWEEN ISLANDS, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES WOULD GRAVELY CHALLENGE ANY MICRONESIAN ADMINISTRATION AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT.

MOREOVER, A NEW GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM FOR AN INDEPENDENT MICRONESIA MIGHT PROVE TOO DIFFICULT TO OPERATE FOR MANY MICRONESIANS WHO ARE NOW USED TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

(CONT)  
NARRATOR:

AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE, MICRONESIA WOULD POSSESS FULL LEGAL CONTROL OF ITS OWN AFFAIRS. IT COULD NEGOTIATE WITH ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IN ITS OWN BEHALF AND COULD JOIN ANY REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL BODY, BUT THERE WOULD BE NO GUARANTEES OF SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE TO MICRONESIA BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS UNLESS MICRONESIA WAS PREPARED TO AGREE TO CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS WITH THOSE POWERS. ALTHOUGH THE REALITIES OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE WOULD LIKELY OBLIGE THE MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE AWAY CERTAIN RIGHTS IN EXCHANGE FOR CERTAIN BENEFITS, SUCH DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE BY MICRONESIANS AND NOT BE OTHERS ACTING ON THEIR BEHALF.

THERE ARE OF COURSE DISADVANTAGES TO INDEPENDENCE. THE MAJORITY OF THEM COME, NOT FROM POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, BUT FROM ECONOMIC FACTORS, THE LACK OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THE SMALL POPULATION, GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCES BETWEEN ISLANDS, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES WOULD GRAVELY CHALLENGE ANY MICRONESIAN ADMINISTRATION AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT.

MOREOVER, A NEW GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM FOR AN INDEPENDENT MICRONESIA MIGHT PROVE TOO DIFFICULT TO OPERATE FOR MANY MICRONESIANS WHO ARE NOW USED TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

(CONT)  
NARRATOR:

IN ADDITION, THE MOST SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE OF INDEPENDENCE IS THAT, EVEN TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THOSE THINGS WHICH MANY MICRONESIANS BELIEVE THEY SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE BY AND TO USE EVERYDAY, MICRONESIA WOULD NEED CONSIDERABLE OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. AND, TO CARRY OUT NEW PROGRAMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EVEN GREATER AID WOULD BE REQUIRED. IT MAY ALSO BE DIFFICULT FOR AN INDEPENDENT MICRONESIA TO OBTAIN THE INITIAL FUNDING LEVELS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP A SELF-SUFFICIENT ECONOMY.

WHEREAS A COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WOULD PROVIDE SPECIFIC TERMS OF AID, AN INDEPENDENT MICRONESIA WOULD HAVE TO RELY FOR AID ON WHATEVER IT COULD NEGOTIATE. IT MUST BE ANTICIPATED THAT ANY DONORS WILL DEMAND SOMETHING IN RETURN.

ANNOUNCER:

AT THIS POINT IN TIME, THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS CONTINUES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WHILE THE OPTION OF INDEPENDENCE REMAINS TO BE DISCUSSED.

OUTSIDE OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE MODERN WORLD, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SEE INDEPENDENCE AS A MOVE BACKWARD TOWARD A TARO-PATCH AND FISH ECONOMY . . . A HAPPY AND CAREFREE SOCIETY, IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WOULD

(CONT)

ANNOUNCER: SOMEWHAT IGNORE THE MODERN WORLD AND LIVE ON A SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY. FOR SOME, IT IS AN ASPECT OF INDEPENDENCE THAT MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBILITY, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ATTRACT THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF MICRONESIA TO IT.

THUS, DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION IN PONAPE IN 1972, THE 16 MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHO SIGNED A LETTER TO THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS, AMONG OTHERS, REGARDING THE POSITION OF THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN MICRONESIA.

1. MICRONESIA MUST BE INDEPENDENT BEFORE ENTERING INTO A TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES.
2. MICRONESIA MUST HAVE A CONSTITUTION WHICH WILL BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND, AND NOT BE SUBSERVIENT TO THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.
3. MICRONESIA MUST HAVE FULL INTERNAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS OWN INTERNAL MATTERS.
4. MICRONESIA MUST RETAIN FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER EXTERNAL MATTERS.
5. MICRONESIA MUST NOT RELINQUISH THE ULTIMATE CONTROL OVER THE U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN MICRONESIA.

NARRATOR: FROM THESE POINTS WE CAN READILY SEE THAT FOR THOSE WHO ARE  
ADVOCATING INDEPENDENCE FOR MICRONESIA - WHAT THEY MEAN AND  
WHAT THEY WANT IS FULL INDEPENDENCE.

WHAT IS MEANT BY FULL INDEPENDENCE FOR MICRONESIA, HOWEVER, IS  
STILL TO BE DEFINED, JUST AS LESSER VARIETIES OF INDEPENDENCE  
REMAIN TO BE DEFINED.

INDEPENDENCE NEVERTHELESS IS CERTAINLY A STATUS OPTION BUT  
IT IS UP TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES  
WHAT POLITICAL STATUS THEY WANT AND WHAT THEY THINK IS BEST  
FOR THEM NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

ON OUR NEXT PROGRAM, WE SHALL TAKE A LOOK INTO THE STATUS OF  
COMMONWEALTH, THE STATUS WHICH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA  
HAS REJECTED, BUT ONE WHICH THE MARIANAS HAVE OPTED FOR AND  
ARE NOW USING AS A BASIS FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN THEIR  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

THEME: UP, ESTABLISH FOR 10 SECONDS, THEN FADE UNDER

ANNOUNCER: NEXT WEEK WE WILL HEAR THE FOURTH PROGRAM OF THIS SERIES . . .  
POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE AIR. THIS HAS BEEN A PUBLIC  
SERVICE PRESENTATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO HELP BRING ABOUT  
AN AWARENESS OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO  
THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

(CONT)  
ANNOUNCER

THIS PROGRAM HAS COME TO YOU FROM SAIPAN AND IS A  
PRESENTATION OF THE MICRONESIAN BROADCASTING SERVICE.

THEME: UP TO END OR TIME

000875