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POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE AIR

PROGRAM #5...STATUS QUO

THEME : UP, ESTABLISH 10 SECONDS THEN DOWN AND UNDER  
ANNOUNCER.

ANNOUNCER: THIS PROGRAM, POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE AIR,  
IS A PUBLIC SERVICE PRESENTATION OF THE  
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 AND CONCLUSIONS FROM THEM.

THEME : UP, ESTABLISH FIVE SECONDS THEN DOWN, UNDER  
NARRATOR, AND OUT.

NARRATOR : THE STATUS QUO OF THE TRUST TERRITORY TODAY  
IS A POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE UNITED  
STATES ADMINISTERS THE ISLANDS AS A TRUST OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS. THE UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT IS THE NAME OF THE  
DOCUMENT OR CHARTER THAT PROVIDES FOR THE

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FORMER JAPANESE MANDATED ISLANDS OF MICRONESIA. BY PASSAGE OF A JOINT RESOLUTION IN THE U.S. 80TH CONGRESS, APPROVED ON JULY 18, 1947, THE CONGRESS AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT TO APPROVE THE U.N. AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, COMPRISING THE ISLANDS OF THE MARSHALLS, CAROLINE, AND MARIANAS GROUPS FORMERLY MANDATED TO JAPAN.

ON JULY 18, 1947, THE PRESIDENT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER:

ANNOUNCER:: WHEREAS THE TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "TRUST TERRITORY") HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM ESTABLISHED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON APRIL 2, 1947, AND BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON JULY 18, 1947, AFTER THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS;

WHEREAS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, IS DESIGNATED AS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY

OF THE TRUST TERRITORY AND HAS ASSUMED OBLIGATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT THEREOF;

THEREFORE, I, HARRY S. TRUMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY ARTICLE 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, DO HEREBY TERMINATE THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN THE FORMER MANDATED ISLANDS AND DELGATE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, ON AN INTERIM BASIS, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

ADMIRAL LOUIS DENFELD WAS APPOINTED FIRST TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND IN HIS FIRST ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA HE DESCRIBED THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS OFFICE.

"ALL POWERS OF GOVERNMENT AND JURISDICTION IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, AND OVER THE INHABITANTS, AND FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY ARE VESTED IN ME AS HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS,

AND WILL BE EXERCISED THROUGH SUBORDINATED ADMINISTRATORS BY HIS DIRECTION,

"YOUR EXISTING CUSTOMS, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS WILL BE RESPECTED AND EXISTING LOCAL LAWS AND ALL PROCLAMATIONS, REGULATIONS, ORDINANCES AND ORDERS OF THE FORMER MILITARY GOVERNMENT SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE AND EFFECT, EXCEPT INSOFAR AS THEY ARE NOT IN CONSONANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND THE EXECUTIVE ORDER, AND INSOFAR AS IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR ME IN THE EXERCISE OF MY POWERS AND DUTIES TO CHANGE THEM."

NARRATOR: SUCCESSIVE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF OF THE U.S. PACIFIC FLEET CONTINUED TO HOLD THE OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER UNTIL 1951 WHEN ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIVE OF MICRONESIA'S DISTRICTS WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND THE FIRST CIVILIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS APPOINTED. ON MAY 7, 1962, THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WERE ALSO TURNED OVER TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WERE MOVED FROM GUAM TO THEIR PRESENT LOCATION ON SAIPAN.

TODAY WE STILL HAVE A HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. HE IS THE HEAD OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS VESTED IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHICH IS THE HIGHEST LAW-MAKING BODY FOR MICRONESIA.

THE JUDICIARY IS VESTED IN THE HIGH COURTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, THE THREE JUDGES PRESIDING AT THE HIGH COURT ARE APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. THERE ARE ALSO DISTRICT COURTS WHERE MICRONESIAN JUDGES PRESIDE.

THE BUDGET FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY IS APPROPRIATED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ANNUALLY. WITHIN RECENT YEARS, THE AVERAGE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY HAS BEEN \$60 MILLION. FROM THIS GRANT, THE WHOLE OPERATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY IS FUNDED PLUS SMALLER AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FROM LOCAL REVENUES.

IN 1947 THE UNITED NATIONS CREATED ELEVEN TRUSTEESHIPS, WITH MICRONESIA UNIQUE AMONG THEM, CLASSIFIED AS A "STRATEGIC TRUSTEESHIP". TODAY MICRONESIAN AND PAPUA/NEW GUINEA ARE THE ONLY REMAINING TRUST AREAS.

THE CURRENT SERIES OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS IS AN ATTEMPT TO REPLACE TRUSTEESHIP ADMINISTRATION WITH A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT. 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.

IT IS OF COURSE LEGALLY AND THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE TRUSTEESHIP TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY AND PROGRESSIVE CHANGES TOWARDS GREATER MICRONIZATION COULD BE MADE IN THAT FRAMEWORK. 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.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS URGED AN EARLY TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP ADMINISTRATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT. THE UNITED STATES HAS INDICATED ITS DESIRE TO DO THE SAME THING SO LONG AS THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS THE FREE CHOICE OF A SOLID MAJORITY OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE.

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

ANNOUNCER: NEXT WEEK WE WILL HEAR THE FINAL 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.

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

THEME: UP TO END OR TIME.