



# Release Of TT Papers Asked

By Robert B. Thompson  
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The U.S. Senate permanent subcommittee on investigations headed by Sen. Henry (Scoop) Jackson, D-Wash., is negotiating with the U.S. Department of Justice for release of Trust Territory papers regarding materiel purchases for the U.S.-administered Pacific islands.

Keith Atkinson, a subcommittee staff member, said Tuesday in Washington that the information is being sought.

Almost two weeks ago Atkinson confirmed that the subcommittee was conducting a "preliminary investigation" of alleged irregularities in purchases and surplus sales by the TT's Okinawa liaison office and headquarters and district staffers in Micronesia.

The investigation is expected to reach the office of TT High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston and his deputy, Peter T. Coleman. Johnston has said he welcomes an investigation.

Atkinson said the investigation has moved beyond charges by Richard Thorpe, a scrap and surplus dealer, that first were carried in the Daily News early this year.

One of Thorpe's contentions was that there were irregularities in the TT purchase of a surplus military barge in Pusan, Korea. That barge was bought through the TT's Okinawa liaison office.

Thorpe, who has given information to the subcommittee, claims Johnston and Coleman are involved in a surplus sales scheme.

Both Johnston and Coleman have denied it and both have said that news of the investigation is "premature."

Johnston, on July 9, maintained that original reports of the investigation were "unfair" and "inaccurate" and that a story on the investigation was irresponsible journalism.

Atkinson said earlier that the U.S. Department of Justice's initial response had been unsatisfactory and that the subcommittee asked a deeper probe.

More than two weeks ago Atkinson said the Justice Department was cooperating, but Tuesday he said the committee is negotiating.

The subcommittee has the power to subpoena records. Atkinson indicated there should be more developments in the case, most likely by next week.



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**Continues**  
**Guam's**  
**Lunch**

7-18-74