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FROM : US Mission - N.Y.

DATE 9/6/74

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SUBJECT : Conclusions & Recommendations Concerning  
American Samoa, Guam, TTPI & Virgin Islands,  
Adopted by the Special Committee of 24

AIR ARMY NAVY OSD

REF :

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Enclosed is a copy of a note from the Officer-in-Charge, Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship & Decolonization of the UN Secretariat, dated August 23, 1974, transmitting the conclusions and recommendations on the above subject adopted by the UN Special Committee of 24 on August 22.

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REFERENCE: TR 200

23 August 1974

Sir,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I have the honour to  
..... transmit herewith, for the attention of your Government, the  
conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee  
on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Decla-  
ration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and  
Peoples at its 977th meeting, on 22 August 1974, concerning the  
United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Guam and the  
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

M. Minchin  
Officer-in-Charge  
Department of Political Affairs,  
Trusteeship and Decolonization

His Excellency  
Mr. John Scali  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the United States  
to the United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10017

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UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 97th meeting, on 22 August 1974

(1) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

(2) Fully aware of the special circumstances of the Territory, owing to such factors as its size, geographical location, population and limited natural resources, the Special Committee reiterates the view that these circumstances should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the Declaration which applies fully to the Territory. Although it appreciates the continued participation of the administering Power in the discussions on the United States Virgin Islands, the Committee hopes that such co-operation will become greater with a view to enabling it to fulfil its mandate and its responsibility towards the United States Virgin Islanders in a satisfactory manner. The Committee takes note of the informal presence of the Governor of the Territory at the 200th meeting of Sub-Committee II.

(3) The Special Committee notes with interest that in his statement before the Sub-Committee the representative of the administering Power referred to the fact that, although the recent proposals of the Second Constitutional Convention were approved by the voters of the Territory in a referendum held in November 1972, representatives of all political parties decided not to ask the United States Congress to approve those proposals at the present, and that the United States Virgin Islands Government and Legislature were still considering whether it would be better to resubmit the proposals to the voters at a future election or to call for a new constitutional convention. The Committee hopes that the United States will expedite any approval that might be necessary in connexion with the decision taken by the United States Virgin Islands Government and Legislature on the issue.

(4) Bearing in mind that the aforesaid proposals did not receive an overwhelming endorsement by the electors, the Special Committee considers that the United States Virgin Islanders should be given every opportunity by the administering Power to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV), without having to decide on other unrelated matters at the same time.

(5) The Special Committee considers that the statement made by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Territorial and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives in late September 1973 <sup>1/</sup> is an indication that plans for constitutional development in the Territory do not envisage the transfer of all powers to the people of the Territory. The Committee stresses that consultations between the administering Power and the local population concerning the future of the Territory should be held and hopes that representatives of the Committee will be

<sup>1/</sup> See A/AC.109/L.930, para. 18.

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invited to be present on occasions when the people express their views on such important matters.

(6) Noting the opposing views expressed by the advocates of independence and of those desiring to continue some form of association with the United States, the Special Committee is of the opinion that there appears to be an atmosphere of uncertainty about the Territory's future status, and that a new constitution should be formulated which would command the support of a substantial majority of the people. Further, in this connexion, the Committee believes that the present 30-day residence qualification for voting does not adequately protect the interests of either the indigenous people or the long-term residents of the United States Virgin Islands, especially in arriving at decisions concerning the future status of the Territory.

(7) The Special Committee notes the strengthening of the relations between the United States Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands as indicated by the following developments: (a) the celebration of the Second Annual Friendship Day took place in October 1973 with the aim of establishing lasting ties between the two Territories; and (b) their legislative bodies held a joint session in January 1974 to discuss, among other things, the lifting of restrictions on immigration to the United States Virgin Islands.

(8) Recognizing that, owing to special economic difficulties, the general downward movement in the economy during the past four years is likely to continue into 1974, the Special Committee looks forward to the implementation of measures designed to bring about improvements. It reiterates its view that tourism should not be relied on as the Territory's main source of income. It notes with satisfaction the attempts being made to accelerate the development of agriculture, livestock and fishing.

(9) The Special Committee calls upon the administering Power to safeguard the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures to guarantee their rights to own and dispose of their natural resources and to establish and maintain control of the development of those resources.

(10) The Special Committee observes that since March 1971, rising unemployment among the local population has lain at the root of economic and social problems for the Territory, including, the recent crime wave and poor race relations, and hopes that the administering Power will do everything possible to assist the United States Virgin Islands in tackling these grave and urgent problems. The Committee hopes that urgent steps will be taken to train local people to hold management positions in industries in the Territory, and to participate meaningfully in its economic development. In this connexion, the Committee hopes that the administering Power will in future provide it with information regarding improvements in the economic and social condition of the local people and the extent of their participation in the economy.

(11) Aware that the role of recent visiting missions to small Territories has proven to be very helpful in the process of decolonization, and recalling that the representative of the administering Power had stated in 1973 that his Government was

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Considering the possibility of allowing the access of such a mission to the United States Virgin Islands in order to enable it to secure first-hand information on the situation prevailing in the Territory and to ascertain the genuine views and wishes of the people concerning their future, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the administering Power will soon announce a positive decision on the matter.

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AMERICAN SAMOA AND GUAM

Conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee  
at its 977th meeting, on 22 August 1974

1. General

(1) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa and Guam to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

(2) Fully aware of the special circumstances of those Territories, owing to such factors as their size, geographical location, population and limited natural resources, the Special Committee reiterates the view that these circumstances should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the process of self-determination in conformity with the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV). The Special Committee notes, however, that in the period under review no significant constitutional advancement was made towards transferring all powers to the people.

(3) The Special Committee expresses its appreciation for the co-operative attitude of the administering Power. In this regard, it takes note of the comprehensive statements made by its representative concerning the two Territories.

(4) Bearing in mind the important role which the United Nations has to play, with the co-operation of the administering Power, in ensuring that the peoples of small Territories are given the right to self-determination in conformity with the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV), the Special Committee notes with satisfaction that the administering Power is actively considering the question of inviting a United Nations visiting mission to the Territories, and expresses the hope that the results will be favourable so as to provide first-hand information on the situation prevailing in American Samoa and Guam as well as to help find solutions to the particular problems with which the Territories are faced.

(5) The Special Committee again urges the administering Power to continue its efforts to diversify the economy of American Samoa and Guam and to take effective measures to guarantee and safeguard the right of the indigenous populations to own and dispose of their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over their future development.

2. American Samoa

(6) The Special Committee notes that, by a referendum held in American Samoa on 18 June 1974, the proposal to elect the Governor and Lieutenant Governor was rejected by a small minority. This fact, together with the increase in the number of voters, appears to be of special significance. The Special Committee regrets...

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however, that more than 1,000 registered voters did not take part in the vote. In this connexion, it expresses the hope that the political education programme in the Territory will be expanded in order to help the people to take a greater interest in their political future.

(7) With regard to the public service, the Special Committee notes with satisfaction the announcement of the new recruiting policy designed to encourage American Samoans living abroad to return to the Territory. It also welcomes the information contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat, <sup>1/</sup> concerning the preponderance of local career service employees in the public service of the Territory.

(8) The Special Committee notes the improvement of the economic situation in American Samoa and expresses the hope that the development of new types of agricultural products and the expansion and diversification of industry will provide the necessary base to promote stable development. In view of the small amount of land available in the Territory, however, the Special Committee would welcome stronger measures to control land alienation.

### 3. Guam

(9) The Special Committee notes that 1974 will be an active and important year for Guam and the Guamanian people as far as the future political status of the Territory is concerned. It notes the new path being followed by the administering Power in undertaking talks with Guamanian officials to review the relationship of Guam to the United States Government and its programmes. The Special Committee expresses the hope that the administering Power will fulfil its obligation to make the people of the Territory aware of all the possible options concerning their future in conformity with resolution 1514 (XV).

(10) With regard to economic conditions in the Territory, the Special Committee notes with satisfaction that progress has been achieved in many fields, and in particular in tourism. It also notes that the Guam Economic Development Authority Act has been amended to give priority to projects which would benefit local residents and that the Authority will emphasize farming and fisheries development.

(11) The Special Committee takes into account General Assembly resolution 3156 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 which strongly deprecates the establishment of military bases and installations in Guam and other colonial Territories as being incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and calls upon the administering Power to take measures aimed at overcoming the dependence of the economy on the military activities of the administering Power, in accordance with the wishes of the people of Guam.

<sup>1/</sup> A/AC.109/L.947.

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(12) The Special Committee also takes into account the proposal of the administering Power that land controlled by the military but not required by it, should be transferred to the Government of Guam for use and development. It also notes with satisfaction the adoption by the United States House of Representatives of two bills concerning land, one of which would help Guam regain control of its submerged land and the other which could result in the return to the Government of Guam of thousands of acres of land being used by United States military forces.

(13) The Special Committee notes that the current work force in Guam is still unable to meet the demands of the labour market, particularly those for skilled and semi-skilled positions. It expresses the hope that the training programmes under way in the Territory for such workers will help to solve the serious manpower shortage.

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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee  
at its 977th meeting, on 22 August 1974

- (1) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. In this connexion, it welcomes the assurance given to the Trusteeship Council by the Administering Authority that the United Nations will be invited to participate in the process of self-determination throughout the Trust Territory. The Committee reaffirms the importance of ensuring that the people fully and freely exercise their rights in this respect and that the obligations of the Administering Authority are duly discharged.
- (2) Fully aware of the special circumstances of the Trust Territory, owing to such factors as its size, geographical location, population and limited resources, the Special Committee reiterates its view that these circumstances should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV) which fully applies to it.
- (3) The Special Committee once again notes with regret the refusal of the Administering Authority to co-operate with the Committee on this item by declining to participate in the examination of the situation in the Trust Territory. It once again urges the Government of the United States of America to comply with its repeated requests that a representative be present to provide vital and up-to-date information which would thereby assist the Committee in the formulation of conclusions and recommendations concerning the future of the Trust Territory.
- (4) The Special Committee takes note of the enactment of Public Law 5-60 of 27 March 1974 providing for the establishment of a constitutional convention as an important step towards the attainment of self-government by the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In this regard, the Committee expresses the hope that delegates to the convention will be able to reflect the aspirations of the Micronesian people to decide freely on their political and economic system without outside interference.
- (5) The Special Committee notes with concern that the Administering Authority still maintains the power to veto bills passed by the territorial legislature and that the budgetary competence of the Congress of Micronesia remains limited. The Committee considers that the people of the Territory would gain more practical experience in governing their affairs if its Congress were to become a fully self-governing legislature, a measure for which the people of the Trust Territory appear to be prepared. In this respect the Special Committee expresses the hope that, in particular, the budgetary competence of the Congress of Micronesia will be expanded.
- (6) The Special Committee, bearing in mind its previous recommendations on this subject, expresses the hope that in the time remaining before self-government increasing priority will be given to the localization of the administration of the Trust Territory.

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(7) The Special Committee considers that the time has come for the Joint Committee on Future Status to complete its work, including the disposition of the question of responsibility for public lands and adequate financial assistance to the Territory in the future. It expresses the hope that progress will be made on the first question on the basis of legislation introduced into the Congress of Micronesia and that the question of future financial arrangements will be concluded at the next formal negotiating session between the two parties. In this regard, the Committee notes that a completed draft compact might be referred to the full Congress of Micronesia at its January 1975 regular session, but that such a compact is expected to come into effect only in 1981.

(8) On that subject, the Special Committee considers that the entry into effect of the compact in 1981 would provide an unduly long transitional period and expresses the hope that the Micronesian people will be encouraged to decide freely and to adopt their future political status in conformity with the Declaration, well before 1981.

(9) The Special Committee reaffirms that the unity of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands should be preserved until it achieves self-determination in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV). It expresses the hope that developments in Mariana Islands District will not lead other districts to call for separation. It urges the Administering Authority, in consultation with the people of the Trust Territory, to take appropriate action to promote national unity in all districts of Micronesia through its programme of political education for self-government.

(10) The Special Committee notes a number of decisions which have recently been taken to assist in strengthening the economy of the Trust Territory, including the removal of the restrictions on foreign investment from sources other than the United States and the request to the High Commissioner to prepare a new five-year budgetary programme with emphasis on the development of the infrastructure. The Committee urges the Administering Authority to take further steps aimed at alleviating the unfavourable economic situation in the Trust Territory.

(11) The Special Committee once more urges the Administering Authority to take effective measures to guarantee and safeguard the rights of the indigenous population to own and dispose of their natural resources, including land, and to establish and maintain control over their future development.

(12) The Special Committee notes with satisfaction the associate membership status of the Trust Territory in the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) which should lead to regional co-operation and development.

(13) The Special Committee expresses the hope that the nuclear test sites of Bikini and Eniwetok will be returned in the near future to the peoples who have been displaced from them. The Special Committee recalls that in subparagraph (4) of its conclusions and recommendations on the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Pitcairn and the Solomon Islands, adopted on \_\_\_\_\_ 1974, it noted that the

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Government of France was again planning to explode nuclear devices on Mururoa Atoll, notwithstanding the earlier concern expressed by the General Assembly with such testing, as reflected in its resolution 3156 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973. The Committee deplores the continuation of testing by the Government of France and expresses its deep concern about these activities which endanger the life and environment of the peoples of the South Pacific and, in particular, of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories of the area.

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