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EArcher:dt 2/10/75

Position Paper

Subject: Date and Content of Plebiscite

The Ambassador's current authority would not permit him to approve a multi-choice ballot other than the unacceptable formulation of choices between integration with Guam, territorial status and commonwealth. If the Ambassador wishes to take a position in favor of a yes/no ballot, the "No" portion must be phrased to leave open all other choices including the three mentioned above.

If the Ambassador is willing to obtain additional authority other choices become possible including the possibility of offering independence or free association in union with the rest of Micronesia. However, if this is desired, Ambassador should obtain at this time a strong commitment from the MPSC to fully support a multi-choice option before he seeks new authority. Otherwise, barring intense pressure from our Mission to the United Nations, his authority to offer a choice between commonwealth and no change in status would seem sufficient.

Recommendation

It is recommended that you ask the MPSC for their views on this matter.

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