

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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May 15, 1975

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Mary: I had you. It seems that the issue is unclear.
So?
Chad

Memorandum

To : Mr. Schmitz
~~Through~~ : *Col. Smith*
From : Mary Vance Trent
Subject : Briefing of Soviet UNTC Delegation
Reference : State 110062, USUN 1495 (Copies Attached)

As you know, I have been somewhat apprehensive about any special approach to the Soviets with respect to their possible participation in the UNTC Mission to observe the Marianas plebiscite. I had thought that USUN's proposal (USUN 1495) for consultation in Moscow had become a dead letter with the cancellation of Ambassador Buffum's trip.

Subsequently when IO/UNP telephoned me to say they wished to have a contact on the subject made in New York, they assured me that this would be done at junior level and aimed at seeing that if the Soviets needed any relevant information we could supply it. They accordingly sent out reftel.

When I was visiting USUN on May 13, I became aware that the Mission at junior level (Katzen), was attempting, in accordance with reftel instructions, to set up an appointment with an appropriate member of the Soviet Mission. In talking with Katzen, I raised some caution, repeating my previously stated position that while of course the Soviets had every right to participate in the plebiscite mission if they wished to do so, there was no reason why we should do anything that might look like special urging to get them there. Katzen apparently agreed and said in

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effect that no arm twisting was contemplated, and that if indeed the appointment materialized, he intended that it should be on a low key.

On my return to Washington, I discussed this subject meeting with the OMSN staff, EA (Jack Knowles) and IO (Molly Williamson). IO said they would follow up with USUN to assure that any Soviet contact on this subject would be within the above context.

Mary Vance Trent

Attachments

Addendum

After this memorandum was typed, I had a telephone call from Ambassador White and took occasion to mention the subject to her. She felt it highly desirable that the Soviets should participate in the Mission (although she has some doubts that they will do so) in order to lessen the chance that they may take the position that the plebiscite is not a legitimate act of self-determination (cf. USUN 1495).

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