

UNTC 6/3/75

CLOSING STATEMENT

Amb White

*Slightly  
Amended in  
Delivery*

As in years before, the U. S. Delegation has been impressed by the thoughtfulness and constructive spirit marking the deliberations of this Council on the Trust Territory's administration and development towards self-government. Questions from members and statements by delegations in the General Debate Friday afternoon have brought to the fore and highlighted a number of complex and important issues, which, while they have been examined by representatives of the United States and of Micronesia during the course of day-to-day administration and during discussions concerning self-determination, will now receive increased attention. I believe that three of these issues are so fundamental as to merit special note.

First, the issue of whether increasing amounts of U.S. economic assistance (at least in the form it is now given) help or hinder prospects for eventual self reliance and self sufficiency. We thank, in particular, the representatives of Australia and of the United Kingdom for drawing our attention to separate aspects of this issue in their questioning. In 1974 the U.S. provided \$74.9 million in assistance to the TTPI, which comes to about \$644 per person in the Territory. To put the magnitude of this assistance in perspective, it is helpful to recall that approximately

70 developing nations have percapita incomes below this per capita assistance level.

I am not suggesting that economic assistance has yet brought Micronesia to the desired level of economic development. Indeed, proper allocation of this assistance hinges on some fundamental decisions by Micronesians themselves about the direction in which they wish to move. Nor do I wish to suggest that the making of these basic decisions is an easy task. Many of them relate to the transition from a traditional to a modern society and involve fundamental value judgments on the extent and manner in which Micronesia should forsake traditional ways. The United States has sought to respond generously to Micronesian needs; but we recognize the inherent difficulties, as highlighted by comments of Council members in recent days. We also recognize that basic decisions about the shape of their future society must be made by the Micronesians themselves. A most important step in this process should be the comprehensive development plan, now being undertaken by the Congress of Micronesia. In the interim the Congress of Micronesia's budget committee continues to exercise considerable influence over the direction and employment of U.S. assistance. It should also be noted that, while the basic infrastructure program is yet to be completed, the amount of infrastructure already in place -- in education, health, communications -- is not inconsiderable and already in many respects exceeds

that of a good number of formerly dependent territories.

The second issue, much discussed by the Council, and properly so, is that posed by the conflict between the wishes of the people of the Marianas for a political status separate from that of the rest of the people of the Trust Territory, and the ideal -- shared by all the delegations -- of a unified Micronesia. As a result of these discussions during the past week, no one on this Council has been left unaware that there are new dangers to the unity that remains to Micronesia. For its part, the United States has long had a policy of encouraging unity and has shaped its policies of administration to that end. Indeed, primary forces for Micronesian unity stem from U. S. initiatives: the creation of the Congress of Micronesia; administration of the Trust Territory insofar as possible as a single unit consistent with geographic and social realities; and extensive education in the school system on Micronesia as a single political entity. In addition, the teaching of English throughout the islands has given the people of Micronesia a vitally important basic resource of unity -- a common language.

I trust my delegation has made clear the reasons that the United States, after long consideration, finally agreed to separate negotiations with the Marianas. I trust we have also made clear that we continue to support the unity of the Marshalls and Carolines.

Third, members of the Council and Micronesian representatives have expressed concern with the degree of progress toward self-government. We share that concern. We have indicated particular areas in which we hope progress will soon be possible. The Constitutional Convention, first suggested by the United States and partially financed through a special U.S. appropriation, should be a most important step. Because of our responsibilities as Administering Authority, however, certain obligations must inescapably remain to the U.S. as long as the Trusteeship Agreement continues. Surely the best way for Micronesia to achieve self-government is rapid movement toward the act of self-determination and thus the ending of the Trusteeship.

While there may be substantial reservations in several quarters about the separate agreement with the Marianas, the Marianas are moving rapidly towards self-government. Remaining difficulties in negotiations with the other districts of Micronesia are substantial, perhaps even more substantial than the U.S. delegation realized at the beginning of this Council session. In a formal resolution, the Congress of Micronesia has asked for further changes in the draft Compact. Senator Kendall has stated that the Congress of Micronesia has even greater difficulties with the Compact than indicated in this resolution. We can also understand the desire of the Congress to defer further negotiations until it is more certain of the wishes of the Micronesian people. We hope that the

July 8 referendum will help to that end. The United States' invitation to resume negotiations remains open: we are ready as soon as the Micronesians are.

Mr. President, the United States considers these three issues of great importance to the present administration of the Trust Territory and to future political status. I want to assure The Council Members that we, as Administering Authority, will study their comments carefully. We much appreciate the insight, perspective, and spirit of constructive collaboration that they represent.

I should like now to address myself to two additional matters arising from the course of our deliberations. We have spoken about the thorny and troublesome difficulty of finding the proper mechanism of returning to local control the public lands acquired largely by previous, colonial administrators and heretofore held by the U.S. in trust. While there have been differences of view, even among Micronesians, on the preferred means to effectuate the return of the land, we should not lose sight of the basic fact that the lands are being returned, and this long-standing and fundamental issue is well on the way to resolution.

With respect to termination of the Trusteeship over the Marianas, to which the French representative referred during his questions and in the General Debate, the U.S. wishes to reassure this Council that the provisions of the

Covenant to be implemented soon after its approval are those leading to greater self-government under the Trusteeship. Our planning to implement them does not reflect any intention of the United States to terminate the Trusteeship earlier for the Marianas than for the remainder of the Trust Territories.

Mr. President, this session takes place at a moment when we can point to substantial progress in several fields, yet when negotiations for the future status of the Carolines and Marshalls are temporarily halted. It is very much our hope that by the next Session of this Council we can report substantial progress on this front as well. We want to assure the Council that the United States will do its part to see that negotiations resume and progress rapidly, so that Micronesia can move toward the final step in the process of self-determination.