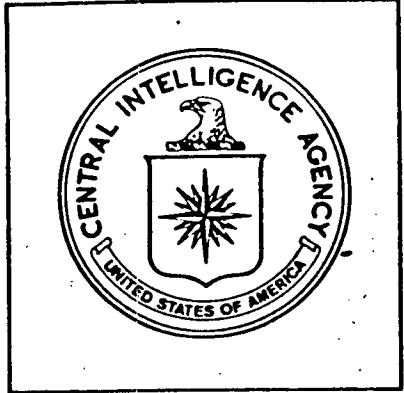
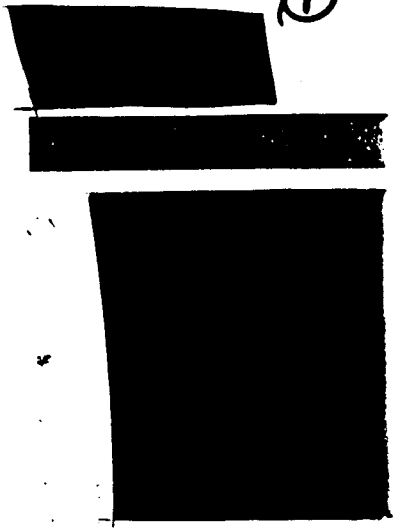


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STAFF NOTES:

Western Europe Canada International Organizations



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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the [redacted] Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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UN Discusses Future Status of Pacific Islands

Pressures are mounting on the US to show results in preparing the inhabitants of Micronesia for eventual self-government.

At the recently concluded session of the UN Trusteeship Council, a number of participants said they were dissatisfied with the pace of economic development and progress toward self-government in the three island groups--the Carolines, Marianas and Marshalls--administered for the UN by the US as a strategic trust territory.

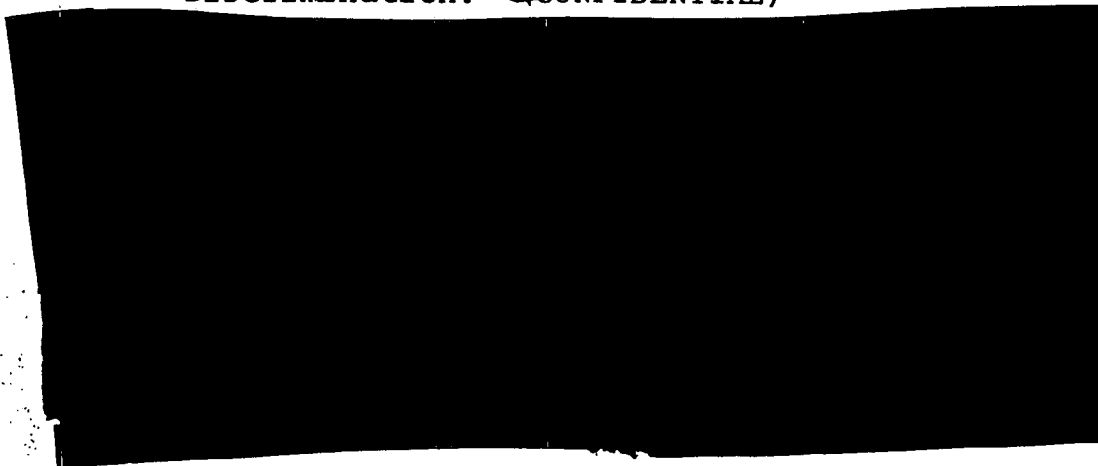
The Marianas group wishes to become a commonwealth of the US when the US trusteeship over the islands is terminated in the early 1980s, instead of the free association compact currently planned by the other two archipelagos. This splitting up of the trust territory, although now implicitly accepted by the Trusteeship Council, has been criticized particularly by the Soviets who question possible US strategic intentions in the area.

The Marianas voted overwhelmingly today to accept the commonwealth status that has been negotiated with the US. The Trusteeship Council has sent a mission composed of three of its members to observe the referendum.

The focus of UN deliberations on the US trusteeship has so far remained within the Trusteeship Council. Papua New Guinea is expected to receive its independence

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1,4 | from Australia later this year, and this will leave the US-administered territories the last remaining trusteeship. It may thus offer an increasingly attractive propaganda target in other, more political, UN forums such as the Decolonization Committee, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~



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