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UN TRUSTEESHIP

# UN Body Criticizes US Trusteeship in Micronesia

At the recently concluded session of the UN trusteeship council, a number of participants expressed themselves as dissatisfied with the pace of economic development and progress toward self-government in Micronesia, which is administered by the US as a UN trust territory. The British, French, and Australians were particularly critical of

the lack of US effort to develop local sources of revenue and eliminate trade discrimination.

The people in the Mariana Islands yesterday voted strongly in favor of a commonwealth association with the US when the present trusteeship over the islands ends in the 1980s. The trusteeship council had three of its members in the

islands observing the referendum. Commonwealth status would allow the residents to elect a governor and legislature—but not to vote in US presidential elections; the US would be responsible for defense and foreign relations.

The other two Micronesian archipelagos, the Carolines and the Marshalls, are still considering whether to push for a form of association with the US or independence. This split of the trust territory, although implicitly accepted by the council, has been criticized by the Soviets, who question US strategic intentions in the area.

The focus of UN deliberations on the US trusteeship has so far remained within the trusteeship council. After Papua New Guinea receives its independence from Australia later this year, the US-administered territories will be the only remaining UN trusteeship. These arrangements may thus offer an increasingly attractive propaganda target in other, more political UN forums such as the decolonization committee or the committee on the elimination of racial discrimination. (U)

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