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ISSUES

1. Territorial acquisition.

- a. Does U.S. really need the Northern Marianas?
- b. What are advantages to U.S. of acquisition of this area?

2. "Colonialism"

U.S. expansion into Marianas runs counter to world-wide movement (and strong UN pressure from other World) to free colonial possessions.

3. Financial and economic burden

Covenant guarantees continuing U.S. financial outlay in support of small, remote population at same time as social welfare needs at home are unfulfilled. NMI are too far away and too marginal economically to be of economic interest to U.S. interests.

4. Defense responsibility

By acquiring NMI as U.S. territory, U.S. would be assuming responsibility for defense of vulnerable, distant area. ~~NMI would~~

5. Micronesian unity

- a. United Nations aspect. Trusteeship Agreement covers TTPI as a ~~simple~~ <sup>single</sup> entity. UN does not look with favor on fragmentation.
- b. Congress of Micronesia aspect. COM opposes fragmentation. U.S. has created COM and is now disregarding its clear desire for a unified Micronesia.
- c. Future government of NMI should be considered in relationships to whatever is developed for the rest of the TTPI; action on the Covenant should accordingly be deferred.

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## 6. Relationship with Guam

U.S. already has Guam as U.S. Territory. <sup>Nearby</sup> Clearly NMI, if acquired at all, should be incorporated in or annexed to Guam. It makes little sense to have two separate U.S. territories within 100 miles of each other in the same island chain 6000 miles from the U.S. mainland. Covenant gives new NMI superior status to Guam which has been U.S. Territory for 75 years.

# ACTION Memorandum

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20540

Date: June 26, 1975

Reply to: Ronald Gerevas, DO <sup>REG</sup>

Subject: Micronesia

To: John Dellenback, IO  
Harry Hogan, OPP

ARIC -  
see me.  
[Signature]

I would like to suggest that we begin to plan how ACTION should respond to the changing political situation in Micronesia. The recent vote by the people of the Marianas District to affiliate with the United States as a Commonwealth suggests that events are moving to a change in the political status of part, and probably all, of the Trust Territory.

My understanding of the Peace Corps authority, and what I am told concerning the decision-making process which led to opening the Peace Corps program in Micronesia in 1966, suggests that Peace Corps will be entitled to operate in Micronesia so long as the islands are a United Nations Trust Territory. When and if part or all of the six districts decide to become part of the United States, Peace Corps will no longer be able to remain, at least in those parts which join the United States.

The Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (Section 421(2)) defines the United States as including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia) for purposes of Title II (Older Americans programs) but does not include Micronesia for purposes of Title I (VISTA, Service Learning, and Special Volunteer Programs) or for Title III (SCORE/ACE). I would interpret this to mean ACTION now has legal authority to develop Older Americans Volunteer Programs in Micronesia, but not any other type of domestic program. Whether this could be done once Micronesia became part of the U.S., but absent a change in Section 421(2) is an interesting question.

I presume final political steps, even for the Marianas, are some time away, probably several years. For the past year IO and DO have informally discussed the Micronesia scene, with our Region IX Regional Director in San Francisco and his State Director in Hawaii kept informed, and with those persons periodically talking with the Micronesia CDO and/or Country Director when they pass through Honolulu or San Francisco. While this should continue, I'd like to propose that you, Jorge Cordova and I get together to identify what contingency planning should be done so that if and when the status of the Marianas or all of Micronesia does change, we're ready to move.

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I am also copying this memo to Don Brown, Region IX Regional Director, and Mike Gale, Hawaii State Director, for their information.

cc: ✓JCordova, GC  
DBrown, Region IX  
MGale, Region IX

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