

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AIRGRAM

03
516

HANDLING	CLASSIFICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE UNCLASSIFIED	MESSAGE REFERENCE NO. A-16
-----------------	--	--------------------------------------

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE
 ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER E.O.
 12958 OF E.O. 12958 BY
 SP-6 J. J. BROWN, DSN
 SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OASD

TO: Department of State
INFO: USUN, COMTWELVE, CINCPACREPGUAM/TPPI, CINCPAC
FROM: Status LNO SAIPAN **DATE:** July 7, 1975
O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNTC TQ
SUBJECT: Public Statements by UNTC Members Observing Marianas Plebiscite
REF: Status LNO 171C

DEPT. DISTRIBUTION

ORIGIN/ACTION			
AF	ARA	CU	EA
EB	EUR	INR	IO
L	NEA	PER	PM
REP	SCI	SS	SY
AGR	AID	AIR	ARMY
CIA	COM	DOD	DOT
FRB	HEW	INT	LAB
NAVY	NSA	NSC	OPIC
STR	TAR	TRSY	USIA
XMB			

PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA AND OMSN
 COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
 CINCPAC FOR POLAD

The United Nations Trusteeship Council Visiting Mission to observe the Northern Marianas Plebiscite departed Saipan a fortnight ago, and other performers are now spotlighted on this small stage. However, a couple of statements made publicly by "the Mission," or its Chairman, President (of the UNTC) James Murray of the UK, while the Mission was here seem worth reporting for the records.

There was, of course, considerable controversy about the explanation on the ballot of what "yes" and "no" would mean. The UN Mission's public statement on "The Wording of the Ballot", released June 14, seemed equivocal and anti-climactic, perhaps because it is unclear whether the inclusion of the final sentence is supposed to imply general approval or disapproval of the ballot. The text was as follows:

The United Nations Visiting Mission is aware that the language of the "No" ballot has been a matter of controversy during the plebiscite campaign. The mission wishes to emphasize that the language of the "No" ballot was worked out by the Administering Authority and that the Trusteeship Council was not

UN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ^D OMSN/127400

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

DRAFTED BY: Status LNO: AEBergesen.lav	DRAFTING DATE: 7/7/75	PHONE NO.: 9727	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: Status LNO: Alf E. Bergesen
--	---------------------------------	---------------------------	--

CLEARANCES:

03-411891

UNCLASSIFIED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

Saipan A-16

2

consulted about the form of wording. The Trusteeship Council did, however, record in its report in the year 1973/74 (S/11415) that it considered that, if the people of the Marianas were consulted separately from the people of the rest of Micronesia, the consultation should not exclude any alternative.

The other statement which the reporting officer found noteworthy was Murray's reply to a question by MPSC member Joe Cruz whether the Northern Marianas would have to wait for Commonwealth beyond 1981 if the trusteeship is not ended because the other districts "are not ready." According to the Pacific Daily News for June 15, "Murray replied that the Council looks at the Trust Territory (TT) 'as a whole,' but that if by 1981 the Northern Marianas show that they achieved self-determination with an adequate Commonwealth government, the Council would concern itself with that 'new element.'"

Murray, who noted in remarks to an assembly of voters on Tinian on June 14 that "you are all very politically mature people" (PDN June 16), and the members of his Mission found themselves under considerable pressure to take sides on issues outside the Mission's terms of reference, such as the content of the Covenant and the date of the plebiscite. Despite some wavering by Bertrand deLataillade, the French member, the Mission did avoid taking a stand on such issues, but both pro and anti-Covenant spokesmen pushed hard enough that "Murray said the Mission 'would be disappointed if Saipan persons considered its trip useless.'" (PDN June 15.) Right down to the wire, however, local leaders on both sides continued to push for UNTC support for their own point of view.

On June 20 just prior to his departure and, of course, after the plebiscite was completed, Mr. Murray addressed the people of Saipan via TV; his theme was that "Whatever the final political arrangements for the Marianas, it is only sensible that the closest links be maintained with the rest of Micronesia." As to the Mission's reaction to the plebiscite, Murray said its report would be published "without unreasonable delay.... It would be wrong to discuss our views publicly before we have communicated them to the Trusteeship Council and the administering power." As to the Mission's objectivity, "Some of you on both sides will no doubt find something in it with which you disagree. But please remember that the other man has a point of view, too. We very much hope that your conclusion will be that we did indeed do our best to be objective." (PDN June 22.)

BERGESEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

UNCLASSIFIED

411892