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FROM : USUN - New York

DATE: August 21, 1975

SUBJECT: Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Enclosed is a copy of a note from the UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs and Decolonization, dated August 11, 1975, on the above-mentioned subject.

BENNETT

Enclosures:

1. Copy of Note
2. Conclusions and Recommendations concerning the US Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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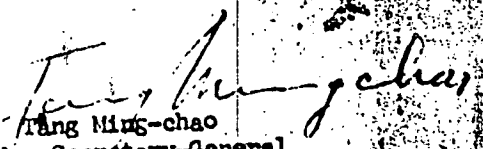
REFERENCE: TR 200

11 August 1975

Sir,

..... On behalf of the Secretary-General, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the attention of your Government, the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples at its 1011th meeting, on 7 August 1975, concerning the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Tang Ming-chao  
Under-Secretary-General  
for Political Affairs and  
Decolonization

His Excellency  
Mr. Daniel P. Moynihan  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of the United States  
to the United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10017

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UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee  
at its 2011th meeting, on 7 August 1975

(1) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the United States Virgin Islands to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

(2) Fully aware of the special circumstances of the United States Virgin Islands, owing to such factors as its size, geographical location, population and limited natural resources, the Special Committee reiterates the view that these circumstances should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the Declaration which applies fully to the Territory. The Committee notes with appreciation the continued participation of the administering Power in the discussions on the Territory and expresses the hope that the close co-operation thus established will be strengthened further so as to fulfil its mandate and its responsibility towards the United States Virgin Islands in an equitable way. In this regard, the Committee wishes to thank the Governor of the Territory for his statement. 1/

(3) The Special Committee notes with interest the statement of the representative of the administering Power outlining recent constitutional and other developments in the Territory during the period under review. 2/ In particular, the Committee welcomes the decision of the Home Rule and Interstate Co-operation Committee of the Virgin Islands Legislature to support the proposal of the Territory's representative to the United States Congress for the establishment of a new constitutional convention, composed of elected delegates, to redraft the constitution before presenting it to the voters in a special election. The Committee expresses the hope that the United States Congress will take all necessary action to expedite the approval of the bill to establish the constitutional convention.

(4) Bearing in mind its previous recommendations concerning the rights of the people of the Territory over their natural resources and the right to dispose of them, the Special Committee notes with satisfaction the passage by the United States Congress in 1974 of a submerged lands act, Public Law 93-435, which places submerged lands surrounding United States Territories, including the Virgin Islands, under territorial jurisdiction.

(5) Mindful of the statement 3/ made by the representatives of the Organization of Concerned Virgin Islanders for Action (OCA), the Special Committee notes with concern the serious social and economic problems caused by continued alien immigration to the Territory on a virtually unrestricted basis. In this connexion, the Committee calls upon the administering Power to review its immigration policy with regard to the United States Virgin Islands, in consultation with the elected representatives of the people, with a view to regulating the

1/ A/AC.109/SC.3/SR.229.

2/ Ibid.

3/ A/AC.109/SC.3/SR.232.

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influx of aliens and thereby reducing tensions between resident and immigrant populations which may otherwise hamper the Territory's progress towards full self-government and the process of self-determination to which they are entitled in accordance with the principles of the United Nations.

(6) With regard to budgetary problems, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the administering Power will take the necessary measures to provide sufficient revenue to the Territory so as to assist it in overcoming its current financial deficit.

(7) The Special Committee, mindful that the Territory continues to face special economic difficulties, and recalling its earlier recommendations in this field, notes with interest the new proposed economic development plan consisting of three interlocking programmes: i.e. "operation recovery", "operation diversification" and "operation exploration", and expresses the hope that these programmes will promote economic diversification and self-reliance.

(8) The Special Committee notes that one of the major problems in the United States Virgin Islands has been the lack of low-cost housing and in that connexion it further notes the establishment of an \$11 million housing programme.

(9) The Special Committee notes that the problems in the educational sector are of grave importance to the future development of the Territory and considers that it is most important that the youth of the United States Virgin Islands be prepared to assume active and productive roles in the life of the Territory. The public school system as described by the Governor of the Territory appears not to fulfil those goals. The Committee urges the administering Power therefore to improve the public educational system of the Territory and to provide the necessary funds for the expansion of existing school facilities and for teacher training as well as the hiring of additional teachers.

(10) Mindful that recent visiting missions to small Territories have provided clearer assessments of the situation in the Territories visited as well as practical guides to the manner in which administering Powers and the United Nations work together for the good of the peoples of the Territories, and recalling the 1973 statement by the representative of the administering Power to the effect that his Government was considering the possibility of inviting such a mission to the Territory, the Special Committee urges the administering Power to conclude in favour of allowing the access of a visiting mission to the United States Virgin Islands in order to secure first-hand information on the situation in the Territory and to ascertain the genuine views and wishes of its people concerning their future.

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AMERICAN SAMOA AND GUAM 743

Conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee  
at its 1011th meeting, on 7 August 1975

General

(1) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa and Guam to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

(2) Fully aware of the special circumstances of those Territories, owing to such factors as their size, geographical location, population and limited natural resources, the Special Committee reiterates the view that these circumstances should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the process of self-determination in conformity with the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV).

(3) The Special Committee expresses its appreciation for the co-operative attitude of the administering Power and the statements made by its representatives concerning the two Territories.

(4) Bearing in mind the important role which the United Nations has to play in co-operation with the administering Power to ensure that the peoples of small Territories are given the right to self-determination in conformity with the Declaration, the Special Committee notes with interest the expressed intention of the administering Power to hold "under active consideration" the question of inviting a visiting mission to the Territories. It expresses the hope that the results will be favourable so as to enable the Committee to obtain first-hand information on the situation prevailing in the Territories and the aspirations and wishes of the people concerning their future status, as well as to help it to find solutions to the particular problems with which the Territories are faced.

American Samoa

(5) The Special Committee notes with satisfaction that during 1974 significant political development took place in the Territory with the election of the fourteenth Legislature and the election at the same time of a delegate-at-large to the United States Congress. The Committee notes, however, that the ratio of registered voters to the number entitled to adult suffrage is still relatively low. Bearing this in mind, the rejection in 1974 of the proposed popular election of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor suggests that the people of American Samoa are still unaware of the benefits of controlling their own destiny, and emphasizes the need for a more thorough political education programme.

(6) The Special Committee notes that the eligibility requirements for voting in American Samoa are impeding the rights of some 60,000 American Samoans living abroad. The Special Committee urges the administering Power to review the absentee ballot procedure in order to enable qualified American Samoans living overseas to exercise their right to vote.

(7) With regard to economic conditions, the Special Committee notes with concern the devastating effects of the drought and the ensuing power failure which occurred in 1974. It notes, however, the improvement in the economic situation

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in general, as shown in the record surplus of the balance of payments for the year under review. The Committee expresses the hope that the development of new types of agricultural products and the expansion and diversification of industry which has been introduced by the local government and the administering Power will provide the base necessary to promote stable development. In view of the small amount of land available in American Samoa, however, the Special Committee is of the opinion that stronger measures are needed to control land alienation.

(8) The Special Committee notes some dissatisfaction on the part of the inhabitants with the quality of education in the Territory. It also notes that while certain facilities are being expanded, notably for classrooms at the early childhood, primary, secondary and college levels and in library extension services, there has been a substantial reduction in the use of educational television in schools. The Special Committee expresses the hope that the administering Power will take appropriate steps to improve educational programmes in the Territory with particular emphasis on maintaining indigenous cultural traditions.

#### Guam

(9) The Special Committee considers that the elections which took place in 1974 for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the delegate to the United States Congress, as well as for representatives to the Thirteenth Guam Legislature, have demonstrated a high degree of political awareness and involvement by the Guamanians with regard to their future political status. In this connexion, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Thirteenth Guam Legislature will reconvene a political status commission with broader terms of reference than those of the earlier commission, dissolved in September 1974, to study all options available to the people of Guam and to assist them to advance towards the process of self-determination.

(10) The Special Committee takes note of the progress achieved in land utilization in 1974, in particular the bill passed by the United States Senate to allow Guam to participate in a federal surplus property programme leading to the release of available federal Government property. It also notes the enactment on 5 October 1974 of a bill transferring the control of submerged lands from the United States Department of the Interior to the Governments of the Territories under its administration, including Guam, giving them control of land between the high water mark and the three-mile limit; thereby removing the necessity of obtaining federal Government clearance for any water-front construction.

(11) The Special Committee takes into account General Assembly resolution 3290 (XXIX) of 13 December 1974 which strongly deprecates the establishment of military installations on Guam, inter alia, as being incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and once more calls on the administering Power to take measures, in accordance with the wishes of the people of Guam, aimed at overcoming the dependence of the economy on its military installations and activities.

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(12) The Special Committee notes with satisfaction that economic progress has been achieved in many fields. In view of the importance of tourism to Guam, however, the Special Committee notes with concern that the number of visitors from Japan is declining for various reasons, including tourist harassment. The Committee recommends that steps be taken to resolve any underlying grievances and to ensure further judicious development in this vital field.

(13) The Special Committee notes that the current work force in Guam continues to be unable to meet the demands of the labour market, particularly for skilled and semi-skilled positions. It expresses the hope that the training programmes now under way for such workers will help to solve the serious manpower shortage.

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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS 746

Conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee  
at its 1011th meeting, on 7 August 1975

- (1) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to self-determination, in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. The Committee reaffirms the importance of ensuring that the people fully and freely exercise their rights in this respect and that the obligations of the Administering Authority are duly discharged.
- (2) Fully aware of the special circumstances of the Trust Territory, owing to such factors as its size, geographical location, population and limited resources, the Special Committee reiterates its view that these circumstances should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV) which fully applies to it.
- (3) The Special Committee once again notes with regret the refusal of the Administering Authority to co-operate with the Committee on this item by declining to participate in the examination of the situation in the Trust Territory. It calls upon the Government of the United States of America, as the Administering Authority concerned, to comply with its repeated requests that a representative be present to provide vital and up-to-date information which would thereby assist the Committee in the formulation of conclusions and recommendations concerning the future of the Trust Territory.
- (4) The Special Committee notes that the Constitutional Convention established in 1974 was convened in the Trust Territory on 12 July 1975. The Committee expresses the hope that delegates to the Convention will be able to reflect the aspirations of the Micronesian people to decide freely on their future political and economic status without outside interference. It joins the Trusteeship Council in the hope that the results of the advisory referendum held on 8 July 1975 will provide a clear framework enabling the Constitutional Convention to give due regard to the aspirations of the people of the Trust Territory concerning their common political status and internal constitutional structure.
- (5) The Special Committee once again notes with concern that the Administering Authority holds the power to veto bills passed by the territorial legislature and that the budgetary competence of the Congress of Micronesia remains limited. The Committee maintains its view that the people of the Trust Territory would gain more practical experience in governing their own affairs if its Congress were to become a fully self-governing legislature, a measure for which the people of the Trust Territory appear to be prepared. In this respect, the Special Committee urges the Administering Authority to expand the budgetary competence of the Congress of Micronesia.

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(6) The Special Committee, bearing in mind its previous recommendations on localization, urges the Administering Authority in the time remaining before self-government to continue the trend of increasing the number of Micronesians in executive and administrative positions. It concurs in the recommendation of the Trusteeship Council that consideration be given to providing for the appointment of a Micronesian to the post of Deputy High Commissioner as an interim measure towards filling the post by popular election.

(7) The Special Committee regrets that the Joint Committee on Future Status has been unable to complete its work. It notes, however, that the Administering Authority informed the Trusteeship Council at the latter's forty-second session that it was ready to resume negotiations. The Committee urges both parties to exercise their best efforts to reach an early agreement on all outstanding matters, including the question of the responsibility for public lands and adequate financial assistance to the Territory in the future.

(8) The Special Committee notes that the Administering Authority hopes to be able to propose the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1980 or 1981. The Committee remains of the view that this provides an unduly long transitional period and reiterates its hope that the people of the Trust Territory will be encouraged to decide freely upon their future political status, in conformity with the Declaration, well before 1981.

(9) The Special Committee reaffirms that the unity of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands should be preserved until it achieves self-determination in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV). The Committee notes that consultations concerning the future status of the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory were held in June 1975 in accordance with a Covenant reached between the Marianas Political Status Commission and the Administering Authority. 1/ It regrets, however, that corresponding consultations were not held simultaneously both in the Mariana Islands District and in the other districts of the Trust Territory. It shares the concern of the Trusteeship Council regarding continued separatist tendencies in other districts. The Committee notes with satisfaction, however, that representatives from all districts participated in meetings in Palau in February 1975 in order to discuss the promotion of unity in Micronesia. It also notes that the Administering Authority has reiterated its desire to preserve the unity of the other districts. The Committee urges the Administering Authority to continue, in consultation with the Micronesian people, to encourage national unity in all districts of the Trust Territory through its programme of political education for self-government.

(10) The Special Committee takes note of the statement of the Administering Authority, made at the forty-second session of the Trusteeship Council, concerning the Mariana Islands and also notes the provisions of the Covenant to establish a commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United

1/ Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. For the text of the Covenant, see T/1759.

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States. 2/ The Committee further notes that the Trusteeship Council accepted the invitation extended by the Administering Authority to dispatch a visiting mission to observe the plebiscite in the Mariana Islands District in June 1975. It also notes that the Mission is to submit to the Council as soon as practicable a report on its observations of the plebiscite. The Special Committee awaits with interest the Mission's report.

(11) The Special Committee regrets that an unfavourable economic situation continues to prevail in the Trust Territory. It notes, however, that in January 1975 the Congress of Micronesia adopted legislation to provide for the preparation of a long-range, comprehensive and balanced development plan for the Territory and that the new legislation places major responsibility for planning with the Congress of Micronesia, with the emphasis on Micronesian participation in the formulation of plans. The Committee shares the Council's hope that such development can be sustained by the Trust Territory after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, without continued dependence on extensive external financial assistance for the indefinite future.

(12) The Special Committee once more urges the Administering Authority to take effective measures to guarantee and safeguard the rights of the indigenous population over their own natural resources and their right to dispose of them, and to establish and maintain control over their future development.

(13) The Special Committee notes with satisfaction the Trust Territory's involvement in regional and international organizations and, in particular, the agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to draw up a country programme for the Trust Territory. The Committee joins the Trusteeship Council in its expression of hope that these contacts will contribute to the growth of a viable Micronesian economy. Further, the Committee notes that the Trust Territory's membership in the Asian Development Bank is contingent on the adoption of the necessary legislation by the Administering Authority to guarantee sums advanced to the Trust Territory by the Bank. It expresses the hope that such legislation will be introduced by the United States Congress as soon as possible.

(14) The Special Committee notes that the people of Bikini are now returning to their ancestral home after receiving all necessary guarantees concerning the safety of Bikini Atoll. The Committee recalls that in its conclusions and recommendations on the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Pitcairn and the Solomon Islands, it continued to be deeply concerned at the testing of nuclear weapons taking place in the South Pacific despite the strong opposition to such testing, as evidenced in General Assembly resolution 3290 (XXIX) of 13 December 1974 and as expressed by the peoples of the South Pacific, including those of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the region.

2/ Ibid.

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