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DOD Insert, Part VIII (Conclusions and Recommendations), Page 38

The Department of Defense holds the view that a public announcement, along the lines proposed by the Department of State, would not guarantee United Nations approval of any of the political status options considered in the Study. Moreover, such an announcement could be extremely adverse.

1. Independence coupled with early termination of the Trusteeship Agreement entails the greatest risk of an unstable Micronesia and an unsatisfactory treaty relationship. A statement along these lines strongly implies that the United States Government would be willing to accept these risks solely in the interest of ending the Trusteeship Agreement.

2. In the absence of a strong Micronesian consensus in favor of this option, a public offer of independence would connote a much weaker national security interest in Micronesia than the United States actually has. Among other things, it would not take into account the crucial importance of Kwajalein Missile Range to our national security and the difficulty of conducting an operation of this type from any foreign (independent) country.

3. The public announcement proposed by the Department of State would make approval of the Compact of Free Association more difficult when it is presented to the United States Congress. Specifically, the Senate and House would not understand why Free Association, with its higher level of financial assistance, was so important, given this public statement by the United States Government that it was willing to offer Micronesia independence.

The Department of Defense also notes that early termination of the Trusteeship Agreement is not among the primary or secondary objectives of the United States Government--listed elsewhere in this Study--and would be reluctant to support achievement of that objective through public announcements.

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