

CIA plotted in Micronesia

The U.S. government, while pretending to "negotiate" the future of the Pacific trust territory of Micronesia, actually intervened covertly to assure that the strategic islands would remain tied to the U.S.

A Senate Intelligence Committee report released last week confirms that in 1973 the CIA intervened against independence forces in Micronesia. It had a spy on the Micronesia delegation that "negotiated" an agreement that made the islands a commonwealth of the U.S., similar to Puerto Rico. The CIA, on orders from then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, also bugged the negotiating sessions.

The Senate report asserts that Kissinger ordered the CIA to "assess the possibility of exerting covert influence on key elements of the Micronesian independence movement." The report claims the CIA never actually carried out the covert action.

In the wake of the Micronesia revelations, the extent of U.S. subversion of foreign governments and the covert role of the CIA has come into sharp focus in Australia.

Testimony at an espionage trial in Los Angeles revealed that the CIA had "deliberately deceived" the Australian government of Gough Whitlam, who was ousted from power in late 1975. Christopher Boyce, charged with stealing secrets from the communications room of a defense plant where he worked, testified that he saw CIA messages indicating that the CIA had infiltrated Australian trade unions.

The revelations were followed by a report in the Australian press indicating that the U.S. government might have exerted strong influence in the unprecedented dismissal from office of the Whitlam government and its replacement with a more pro-U.S. one.

Other reports have since quoted former CIA executive Victor Marchetti as stating that the CIA funneled money to Whitlam's opponents, the Liberal and National Country parties, which currently govern Australia. Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser has denied the report.

Whitlam and the opposition parties have called for a full investigation of the CIA's role in Australia. So far, the government has refused the request.