

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Statement of Objectives and Policies

Objectives

Two international documents, the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement, set forth certain objectives for the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In summary these objectives are:

1. To ensure that the Trust Territory shall play its part in the maintenance of international peace and security.
2. To foster the development of political institutions suited to the Trust Territory and to promote the development of the inhabitants toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the Trust Territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the people.
3. To promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants.
4. To promote the social advancement of the inhabitants.
5. To promote the educational advancement of the inhabitants.
6. To encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and to encourage recognition of the interdependency of the peoples of the world.

In carrying out the foregoing, the objective of the Department of the Navy is to bring about an orderly and progressive development that will be soundly based on acceptance and participation by the people and on the economic potential of the territory.

Policies

Political Advancement

The policy of the Department of the Navy is to encourage the political advancement of the people of the Trust Territory toward a goal of self-government. In this developmental process, the techniques of free, democratic, and representative government shall be adapted to the existing socio-political culture. Progress toward self-government shall move forward at such a pace as the people find themselves willing and able to adopt in order that the programs so instituted will have a basis of acceptability in the community, will meet the needs of the community, and will not unduly disrupt long-standing, customary patterns without the provision of equally adequate and acceptable substitutes. Such policy will take into account the differing cultural patterns existing throughout the territory.

It is the policy to emphasize local government as the basic element in political advancement. Concurrently, however, encouragement shall be given to the development of regional or district-wide legislature bodies which shall be granted increasing legislative powers as they progress in experience and ability.

The Department recognizes that ultimately the people of the Trust Territory may develop a feeling of unity and inter-relationship that will make a territory-wide legislative body desirable. Meanwhile, opportunities shall be given, through periodic conferences and other means, for the growth of awareness and understanding on the part of the Micronesians of the common problems and experiences that exist among the Districts.

In order to develop the Micronesians in the ability to handle their own affairs, it is the policy to utilize Micronesians in the administration to the maximum extent of their abilities and to conduct on-the-job and other training programs with a view to replacing stateside employees as rapidly as practicable.

Economic Advancement

Economic policy in the Trust Territory shall be directed toward the goal of maximum-possible self-sufficiency. In achieving this the economy to be developed shall (1) be suited to the needs and resources of the area, (2) be able to provide adequately for the food and monetary needs of the population, (3) be such as will establish a firm foundation for self-government, and (4) be so implemented as to reserve to the Micronesians both the land and, to the greatest extent possible, the development of the natural resources and commercial opportunities of the territory.

Pursuant to the foregoing, the following steps shall be taken:

Improve and increase the production of subsistence crops;

Improve and increase the production of copra and introduce additional cash crops;

Encourage increased use of the resources of the sea;

Protect the inhabitants against loss of their land;

Encourage and assist local Micronesian trading companies in meeting the needs of wholesale and retail trade in the territory;

Ensure that there is adequate transportation to meet the commercial needs of the territory;

Encourage and assist local Micronesian enterprise to conduct all economic and commercial enterprise and activities within their capabilities in order that the maximum monetary return may accrue to them.

As the principal employer of wage workers in the territory, the government of the Trust Territory shall maintain a wage structure and conditions of employment consonant with the advancing social and economic conditions of the territory.

General Advancement

In achieving the social advancement of the inhabitants, it is the policy to respect the customs of the people, to encourage acceptance of such Western social concepts as would be beneficial, and to provide such social regulation and services as are required in the light of the local social structure and economic system, or as may be dictated by precepts of common humanity and governmental responsibility.

(a) Civil Rights

Inhabitants of the territory shall be guaranteed (1) freedom of religion, conscience, speech, press, assembly, and petition; (2) no slavery or involuntary servitude; (3) protection against unreasonable search and seizure; (4) no deprivation of life, liberty or property without due process of laws; (5) no ex post facto law; (6) no excessive bail, excessive fees, or cruel and unusual punishments; (7) no discrimination on account of race, sex, language, or religion; (8) freedom of migration and movement subject only to the requirements of public order and security; (9) the maintenance of free elementary education; (10) no imprisonment for failure to discharge contractual obligations; (11) writ of habeas corpus; (12) no quartering of soldiers in private homes; (13) protection of trade and property rights; and (14) due recognition of local customs in providing a system of law.

(b) Health

The Public Health program shall provide necessary medical and dental services, improve the health and sanitary conditions of the people, minimize communicable diseases, and train local health personnel.

(c) Education

In the promotion of educational advancement, it is the policy to provide, through a free public school system, an educational program that will give all children the basic elementary education necessary to prepare them for a useful life in their own environment. This program will also provide qualified students with further educational opportunities to enable them to improve their abilities to become productive citizens and to contribute to the progressive development of their communities and the territory as a whole. The people and communities shall be encouraged to accept responsibility for the educational system to the maximum practical extent.

International Peace and Security

To ensure that the Trust Territory shall play its part in the maintenance

of international peace and security and that the security interests of the United States are properly maintained in pursuance of this objective close liaison will be maintained with the Departments of State, Interior, and Defense regarding activities or programs that have a bearing upon those issues and will encourage the Navy commanders charged with civil government responsibilities to maintain similar close liaison with the High Commissioner and his subordinates and with appropriate military commanders in the field.

APPROVED BY SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
THOMAS S GATES
29 Apr 1957