

MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE

PRESIDENT HAS

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

July 7, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *K*

SUBJECT: Incorporation of Micronesia into the State of Hawaii

You mentioned to Mr. Ehrlichman the thought that the status of Micronesia could perhaps be solved by including it in Hawaii. This may ultimately turn out to be the best solution, given Micronesia's limited land and population, and its lack of traditional homogeneity.

For the present, there would be some formidable problems:

- I am told by the experts that the Micronesians themselves have entertained this thought, and that they are strongly resistant to such incorporation, for fear that they will be absorbed by Hawaii's "commercial" and Americanized culture.
- Congress might well put obstacles in the way of such a plan, on the grounds that it would be dangerous to include in the electorate a largely pre-modern and un-Americanized group of voters.

If the decision is ever made to include Micronesia in Hawaii, it will probably be wise also to include Guam and American Samoa, whose relationships with us have deeper roots. Residents of those two dependencies would legitimately be disappointed if citizenship were given to the Micronesians before it was given to them.

I am passing your thought informally to the Working Group chaired by Interior which is seized of the Micronesian problem.