

copy

July 17, 1936

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: IS - Mr. Wilson

SUBJECT: Propable Procedure and Arguments for Cession of Reporting on Alaska and Hawaii to the United Nations

If you disapprove our recommendation that we should continue to report to the United Nations on Alaska and Hawaii, and decide that we should cease transmitting information, the following procedure and arguments might be used to explain such a decision to the United Nations.

Procedure

If the United States follows the established procedure in the United Nations, a communication setting forth the case for cession together with all relevant documents, would be submitted to the Secretary General. These would include the Organic Acts of the Territories of Hawaii and Alaska, all amendments thereto, the drafts of the two State Constitutions, and a statement of the economic, social and educational advancement of the two Territories during the last ten years. In the case of Puerto Rico, the Resident Commissioner to the Congress was attached to the United States Delegation at several United Nations meetings as an adviser and was our principal spokesman in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and the General Assembly. Since it has become the practice for elected representatives to present these cases and answer questions in the United Nations, it would be expected that the Delegates to the Congress from Alaska and Hawaii would be advisers and the principal spokesman when the agenda item was discussed.

The United States communication and accompanying documentation would be first considered by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. This Committee would review the documentation, would hear the oral arguments and submit a report. The Fourth Committee would then hold extensive debates and hear the two Delegates again. Finally, the matter would be discussed in the plenary session of the General Assembly which would adopt a favorable or unfavorable resolution on the cessation of information. It is possible that, as in the Danish and Netherlands Antilles case, the Assembly might decide to postpone final action on the issue until satisfied as regards the two territories. In this event, the issue might appear on the agenda of several sessions of the General Assembly.

Proposals

Authority NND 911018
DECLASSIFIED
By 61NARA Date 6-6-88

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Authority NND 911 018

By GW NARA Date 6-6-08

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By 6W NARA Date 6-6-08

TOP

To many United States citizens, the basic principle of the Federal Government is that of a government of, by and for the people. This principle is embodied in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, which guarantee to every citizen certain fundamental rights and liberties.

Among the powers and authorities granted to the Federal Government are the powers of taxation, borrowing money, regulating commerce, and making laws. These powers are exercised by the Congress and the Executive branch of the Government. The Federal Government also has the responsibility of protecting the nation's borders and interests, and of maintaining the national defense.

Although the Federal Government has the power to regulate interstate commerce, it does not have the power to regulate intrastate commerce. This is a power reserved to the States. The Federal Government also has the power to regulate foreign affairs and to make treaties.

The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land. It is the foundation of the Federal Government and guarantees the rights of citizens. The Constitution is written and its powers are limited. The Federal Government is established by the Constitution and its powers are derived from the people.

The Federal Government is a unitary system of government. It has the power to make laws, enforce laws, and interpret laws. The Federal Government is also the only government that can make treaties and conduct foreign affairs. The Federal Government is responsible for the welfare of the entire United States.

the present, however, we have no evidence of a popular demand in Alaska and Hawaii for cessation of reporting. Such a demand would therefore have to be stimulated in one form or another.

One of the following methods, which are listed in the order of their probable effectiveness, might be used in expressing the desires of the people of Alaska and Hawaii to cease reporting: (1) the Territorial Legislatures might adopt resolutions to this effect; (2) the Territorial Delegates to the Congress might request the Congress to adopt a resolution; (3) the Territorial Delegates might ask the President to cease reporting, a request that would be strengthened if the Delegates could base it upon a widely circulated petition in the Territories; and (4) the Territorial Governors might ask the President to cease reporting.

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