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38

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 11, 1959

SUBJECT: Hawaiian Statehood

PARTICIPANTS: Governor William Quinn, Governor of Hawaii  
Sir Leslie Munro, Ambassador, Embassy of New Zealand  
Mr. David M. Bane, Deputy Director, Office of Northeast Asian Affairs

2

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19

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While traveling by air from Honolulu to Washington, March 11, Mr. Bane had occasion to talk at some length with Governor William Quinn of Hawaii and Sir Leslie Munro on the subject of Hawaiian statehood. Governor Quinn stressed at considerable length the importance the granting of statehood to Hawaii would have on United States relations with Asian countries, a view Sir Leslie and Mr. Bane heartily endorsed. Governor Quinn stated that if statehood were granted, Hawaii planned to observe this momentous event over the coming year and he hoped that maximum benefit would be derived therefrom in terms of U S-Asian relations. He said that Hawaii hoped to launch a large scale exchange-of-student program with Asian countries and he particularly hoped that some United Nations manifestation or event could be held in Honolulu this coming year as a part of such observance. Governor Quinn thought that Hawaiian statehood was a development of particular significance to the UN. He suggested a meeting of UNESCO at Honolulu might be one possibility of focusing UN attention on Hawaiian statehood. Sir Leslie, while stressing that this was an internal US matter, said that he would support strongly any US suggestion to this end and wondered whether a meeting of the Trusteeship Council in Honolulu might not be more appropriate than UNESCO.

Governor Quinn stated that he hoped he would have the opportunity while in Washington to talk to Mr. Robertson about his views on this matter as well as to Mr. Wilcox. Mr. Bane told Governor Quinn that he was sure that both Mr. Robertson and Mr. Wilcox shared his views as regards the importance of Hawaiian statehood in terms of US-Asian relations and that they would be very much

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interested in talking to him while in Washington. Mr. Bane said that he would communicate to Mr. Robertson and Mr. Wilcox Governor Quinn's views as expressed to him and Governor Quinn's desire to see them if his time in Washington permitted. Governor Quinn stated that he would be staying at the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel and that he would be in touch with Mr. Stimpson of Governor Herter's office as regards his plans.

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