



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/7401
13 December 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-third session
Agenda item 23

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD
TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 9 December 1968 from the Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 13 November 1968 from Guam's Representative in Washington, Mr. A.B. Won Pat, to the Secretary of State.

In accordance with the request contained in the last paragraph of the letter, I should be grateful if you would arrange for this communication to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) J.R. WIGGINS

Territory of Guam

U.S.A.

OFFICE OF GUAM'S REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON

13 November 1968

Dear Secretary Rusk:

As the elected representative of the people of Guam in Washington, I wish to express to you, and, through your office, to the United Nations, the disagreement of the overwhelming majority of the people of Guam with the report of Sub-Committee II of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of the United Nations General Assembly. This report, dated 23 October 1968, states in its "Conclusions and recommendations" that "the establishment of military bases in Guam is incompatible with the purposes and principles" of the United Nations Charter. It also asserts that legislation enacted by Congress is "insufficient" to enable the people of Guam "to determine the future except in terms of complete association with the administering Power".

There are other subsidiary criticisms as well, such as that the economy is "mainly military oriented" and that the administering Power has not established adequate educational and training facilities.

I am a native Guamanian and have lived all my life on Guam. I have been in public life on Guam for more than thirty years, and presently hold the highest territory-wide elective office within the power of the people to grant. As such, I wish to state categorically that I cannot believe that the authors of the report and the Sub-Committee members who supported it have any real knowledge of the conditions on Guam and its people, nor a true understanding of the American system of government.

The Honourable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

/...

The people of Guam, some 85,000 or so in number, are American citizens. We have been under the American flag for almost seventy years. Long before the Organic Act was enacted, which made us American citizens, we were fully American in our outlook and thinking. Our loyalty to the principles of the American Government has been proven, indisputably, in the Second World War and more recently in Viet-Nam.

We have an elected legislature with true legislative powers. Our Governor is a native-born Guamanian, and in 1970 we will choose our own Chief Executive.

There is no more reason why there should not be military bases on Guam than that there should not be military bases in Washington, New York, California or Hawaii. Because of our geography, military bases on Guam have a very immediate importance to our national security - the security of the American citizens of Guam, as well as that of the 200 million or so of our fellow citizens elsewhere under the American flag. Moreover, the Seventh Guam Legislature has gone on record by adopting a resolution requesting the Secretary of Defence to utilize Guam more as a defence or military base.

To be sure, military spending does contribute to the economy of the country and it does contribute substantially to the economy of Guam. Defence appropriations are a major factor in the economy of our nation as a whole, as they are in that of most other nations. However, as Americans, we are also cognizant of our responsibilities to contribute to our national security and for this reason we also welcome the use of Guam by the United States defence forces.

Concurrently with military activities, the Federal Government and the Government of Guam are developing long-range plans for economic development of the civilian economy. Economic development funds are being provided and there is a consistent emphasis on the development of the private sector of the island's economy.

As to the effective date of the Elective Governor Act being in 1970, rather than in 1968, I am convinced that the Congress acted in good faith, and in the best interests of Guam. From first-hand observation of, and participation in, the enactment of the Elective Governor Bill, I am convinced that the basic reasoning was that our first venture in some 300 years in choosing our Chief Executive should not be subjected to the extraneous strains and stresses of a

presidential election year. The idea was to give us time to prepare for this highly important election, and to have it based on local issues.

The United Nations Sub-Committee report infers that the people of Guam might want "to determine their future" other than in terms of "complete association" with the United States. That suggestion is wholly without foundation in fact. As I have pointed out, we of Guam are American citizens. America is our country. We have no desire to make any change of any kind.

Mr. Secretary, on behalf of the people of Guam, I ask that this letter be transmitted to the appropriate officials of the United Nations, including the members of Sub-Committee II.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) A.B. WON PAT
