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Mr. Bundy

September 19, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ARTHUR SCHLESINGER, JR.,
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: U. S. Trust Territories

I am returning herewith the State position papers on U. S. Trust Territories which you loaned me last week. I have had a brief talk with Benjamin Gerig, Director of the Office of Dependent Area Affairs in Harlan Cleveland's shop, about this subject. I understand that, as a result of resistance from other departments concerned, a shorter, revised paper covering all of the territories has been prepared. As of Friday it was on its way to Secretary Rusk. You should receive it shortly. This new paper will make only two general recommendations for all of the U. S. trust territories:

- a. That the U. S. refer briefly in its general statement opening the UNGA debate to its plans for consulting with the elected leaders of the various territories. This we would do anyway.
- b. That State, Interior and Defense initiate a study of the longer-range problems, including recommendations to deal with those problems.

Gerig is of the view that the statement proposed in a above will suffice to deal with the present UN situation. You may want to react to the new State paper when it is received. My own feeling is that we ought to state in the UN that we are making a serious study of the long-range problems and will report the results at the next full UNGA meeting. I am not sure whether State plans to go that far.

Attached for your information is a copy of a letter written to Sam Belk by Tom Gladwin, an anthropologist friend of his who has spent sometime in the trust territories of the Pacific Islands. I know nothing about the problems of these islands other than what I have read in the State papers, but Mr. Gladwin's letter seems to me to contain a very intelligent analysis.

I have suggested to Walt Rostow, and he has agreed, that it would be desirable to have White House or NSC Staff representation

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on any interdepartmental group created to study the problems of the trust territories. Otherwise I fear that the natural resistance of Defense and Interior may produce glacial progress. Additional reasons for our participation include the President's interest in the subject and the fact that, since legislation is likely to be involved in any solution, the matter seems headed for ultimate Presidential consideration. Because State's interest is limited to the UN angle, its influence in any interdepartmental effort is likely to be rather marginal I fear.

I would, therefore, like to suggest that, when you get the new paper from State, you propose to Harlan Cleveland that we be represented in any interdepartmental group created to deal with the problem. In my conversation with Mr. Gerig I indicated that we might want to keep in touch with the further work on this subject. He seemed favorably disposed to the idea. I believe that State would welcome White House representation.

Robert H. Johnson

cc: Mr. Rostow
Mr. Smith
Mr. Belk

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