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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

03-16-62 [?]

Memorandum

**To: Mr. Marcus Raskin
National Security Council Staff**

From: Assistant Secretary, Public Land Management

In accordance with your telephone request to my office, there is enclosed a draft letter addressed to Chairman Wayne E. Aspinall, House Interior Committee. You indicated that this was desired for possible transmittal over the signature of Mr. Lawrence F. O'Brien, Special Assistant to the President.

John A. Carver, Jr.

Enclosure

Carver

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Draft

Dear Mr. Aspinall:

The President has expressed serious concern with respect to our administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. He is mindful that the present Enabling Act for that territory limits annual appropriations to \$7,500,000 and fully supports the belief that this limitation should be removed or appreciably increased in amount.

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At the present time discussions are taking place between officials of the Department of State, Department of Defense, National Security Council and the Department of Interior to reevaluate our objectives with respect to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and to develop a current Executive Branch policy regarding the future of the Trust Territory and our obligations to its inhabitants. Such a policy would provide the essential guidelines to the proper discharging of our responsibilities for the area. It is anticipated that the reevaluation will be completed within the next four to six weeks and of course ^{The results of this} will be made available to your Committee. _{A prompt}

The Department of the Interior, in response to the recent request of the House Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular

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Affairs, is now preparing estimates of annual funding requirements which would be necessary if this government decides that it should broaden the scope and increase the level of present programs in the health, education, welfare and economic fields in consonance with changes which may result from the reevaluation of our objectives. They also should complete this information and have it available for your Committee within the next four to six weeks.

The Department of Interior submitted a budget request of \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1963 exclusive of Saipan. The Department will need a minimum ceiling of \$12,000,000 to cover programs including Saipan which should be put into effect during the fiscal year 1963. The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommended that the present \$7,500,000 limitation be increased to \$15,000,000. This recommendation would permit the Trust Territory to carry out its presently approved programs for the 1963 fiscal year, but does not take into consideration changes which may be deemed necessary in light of present studies.

Upon receipt of the information referred to above, it is earnestly hoped that your Committee will act favorably to change the existing limitation on annual appropriations. Your sympathetic understanding and appreciation of the problems

of administering the Trust Territory is greatly appreciated and the Committee's continued cooperation is essential to the successful administration of this territory.

Sincerely,

Lawrence F. O'Brien
Special Assistant to the
President

Honorable Wayne H. Aspinall
Chairman, Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

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