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Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you and the other members of your Committee know, serious concern has been expressed with respect to the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The President believes improvement is essential and has directed the Secretaries of State, Defense and Interior to review all aspects of our administration of the Trust Territory and to submit recommendations for an appropriate program for the Territory and its inhabitants.

It seems clear that this review which is now underway will result in recommendations for increased financial support for the territory in such fields as health, education, welfare and industrial development. It is equally clear that the present limitation on annual appropriations of \$7.5 million contained in the Enabling Act for the Territory does not even permit adequate funds for the program submitted by the Interior Department for fiscal year 1963. Accordingly, the Administration has recommended an increase in the authorization of funds for the Trust Territory. The Senate recently approved an increase in the annual authorization to \$15 million, and it is our hope that the House will also act to lift the appropriations ceiling to at least the figure approved by the Senate to enable the minimum program for FY 1963 submitted by the Administration to be undertaken.

The interest and understanding that your Committee has shown to the problems of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is, of course, well known. Representatives of the Executive Branch will, of course, continue to consult with you and members of the Committee in connection with the

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problems involved in the administration of the Trust Territory, and we are hopeful that the Committee will recommend approval of the Administration's request for an increase in the authorization of annual appropriations.

Sincerely,

Lawrence F. O'Brien
Special Assistant
to the President

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

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