

August 29, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John A. Carver
Assistant Secretary for Public
Land Management
Department of the Interior

SUBJECT: Opening Up the Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands

According to a memorandum dated August 15 from Mr. Roswell Gilpatrick to me, the Department of Defense has no objection to opening the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to U.S. citizens, U.S. investment and U.S. flag vessels without prior security clearance from the Department of the Navy.

It is proposed that the President will announce the rescission of Executive Order 8683 simultaneously with announcing his intention of opening up the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. This would be done either at a press conference or by a separate White House announcement. Will you undertake, in cooperation with the other departments represented on your Task Force to: (1) prepare a statement along the lines suggested by Mr. Gilpatrick in his memo to me (copy attached) emphasizing that his action has been recommended and is supported by the Secretaries of State, Defense and Interior, and (2) undertake immediately the development of the procedural and other arrangements for opening up the Trust Territory and for reserving entry into those islands which are designated for national defense purposes to remain under the control of CINCPCAG.

It is hoped that the statement and rescission of the Executive Order can proceed immediately so that they may be used at an early press conference. The final arrangements with the Navy need not be completed before the announcement is made. In fact there is some merit in having an early announcement in advance of the completion of the final arrangements in this matter.

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McGeorge Bundy

Dispatch 8/20/62



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE McGEORGE BUNDY
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

This is in further response to your memorandum dated July 13, 1962 concerning the Department of Defense security program for Guam and the Trust Territories.

The Department of Defense interposes no objection to the rescission of Executive Order 8683, February 14, 1941. As you know on Guam the entire natural harbor available for shipping is within the Naval Base and commercial air operations are conducted at the Naval Air Station. It is understood that a rescission of Executive Order 8683 would not affect the authority of the commanding officer or other appropriate commander to control entry into or passage through any base, station or other installation or area, including port and harbor facilities under Army, Navy or Air Force control. It is the responsibility of the Department of the Navy, however, to make appropriate arrangements for the use of harbor and air station facilities by commercial carriers.

Further, the Department of Defense has no objection to opening the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to United States citizens, United States investment and United States flag vessels without prior security clearance from the Department of the Navy. It is understood that entry into the Trust Territory will continue to be under control of the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and further, that entry into Eniwetok, Bikini and Kwajalein Atolls, together with such other islands as are designated for national defense purposes from time to time, will be under the control of the Commander in Chief, Pacific.

We urge that you consider the desirability of requesting the President to announce any action taken by him along these lines, and we would suggest emphasizing that these steps are consistent with our national policies of local self government, and of political, economic and social development for the people of these islands; and further, that all appropriate measures will be taken to insure that the security requirements of the United States in these areas are amply safeguarded.

Roswell Gilpatric