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April 26, 1963

TO : IO - Mr. Cleveland
FROM : S/P - Ernest K. Lindley
SUBJECT: Statements on Trust Territory

I was unable to arrive at a suitable public explanation. I doubt that the paragraph I added to your prepared statement contributes very much. I think you prepared statement is very good.

I strongly hope that you will be permitted to talk completely off the record. Attached is a rough outline of suggested talking points.

Good luck!

Attachment:

Your draft with suggested additions page 5.
Suggested talking points.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>B. H. TSAAS</u>	DATE <u>3/25/87</u>
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The Future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Talking Points for Use in Executive Session

We think the time has come to begin to prepare for a permanent arrangement to supplant the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Only three United Nations Trusteeships remain.

The liquidation of the old colonial empires is nearing completion.

We must expect both the Afro-Asian nations and the Communists to pay increasing attention to our trusteeship in the Pacific.

A group of American journalists recently visited the islands-- we must expect increasing publicity about the conditions there and the future of the islanders.

It would be both more dignified and more in keeping with our traditions to anticipate a political transition rather than move later under the propaganda and political pressure. Also, if we move ahead on our own initiative we are more likely to get the result we want. A long delay would give unfriendly influence more of an opportunity to train and infiltrate agents, etc., into Micronesia.

We would

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We would hope for an unpublicized consensus between Congress and the Executive on a permanent arrangement to supplant the Trusteeship. And we think serious consideration should be given to setting an unpublicized time-table for achieving it.

For reasons of security and defense, we think that it would be most desirable for the islands of the Trust Territory to become permanently associated with the United States.

They could not constitute a viable nation. And certainly we don't want them to fall under unfriendly influence.

During the past year the Department of State has been conferring with the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand about the future of the Pacific Islands. The participants in these discussions have agreed that there are perhaps only two or three territories for which independence might be the best solution-- that for the others some form of permanent association with their respective metropolises would best serve the islanders as well as the security of the Pacific.

There are of course various ways in which Micronesia might be permanently associated with the United States. (One possibility is to

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is to make it, in combination with Guam, a county of Hawaii.)

Our tentative thinking is that we should set 5 years from now as the unpublicized target date for a plebiscite. And our objective in the plebiscite would be, we think, an overwhelming vote--at least 75 percent--for a permanent arrangement satisfactory to us.

To achieve these objectives would require good political organization as well as a rapidly moving program of economic and social development. But we think there are fewer risks in moving rapidly than in a long period of preparation which would give others a better chance to agitate for permanent arrangements not to our interest.

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