

Statement of Assistant Secretary of the Interior John A. Carver, Jr. at Briefing by Mr. Anthony Solomon before the Subcommittee of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, October 15, 1963

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee:

The presentation today will be made by Mr. Anthony M. Solomon, who led a Survey Mission in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands last summer. The President commissioned the study, and it was staffed by both governmental and non-governmental experts. Director of Territories Taitano accompanied the Mission, and one of its members was Dr. Pedro Sanchez, well known to this Committee for his work in both Guam and Virgin Island education.

The briefing today follows a precedent established in April, 1962, when representatives of the Departments of State, Defense, and Interior set forth the considerations from the point of view of each Department for United States policy in the area in a similar session of this Committee.

It is our desire to keep the Congress, through the appropriate committees, fully informed. Mr. Solomon's report will be submitted to the President. Implementation of many of its recommendations will require legislative action, in substantive policy areas, in appropriations authorizations, and in appropriations. Therefore, it is considered appropriate and desirable to furnish the Committee this briefing.

The Survey Mission's report is its own responsibility. Its recommendations will be reviewed and commented upon by the cabinet-level Task Force on the Trust Territory created by the President in April, 1962, by the High Commissioner, and by the National Security Staff of the President.

Present today, besides Mr. Solomon, is Director of Territories Taitano, High Commissioner M. W. Goding, and Deputy High Commissioner Benitez, and other staff members.