

November 4, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

I am shocked at the report on the spread of polio in the Trust territories. It seems to me that this is inexcusable. I would like to have an investigation made into why there were inadequate funds in 1958 for administering preventive medicine and why no action was undertaken between 1958 and 1963 when the spread of the disease again became acute. How much would it have cost to have taken precautionary steps. Is there a difference in treatment for United States citizens in this country and the people for whom the United States is responsible in the Trust territory.

Whose responsibility was it to initiate an appropriate program? In short, I would like a complete investigation into the reason why the United States government did not meet its responsibility in this area.

Would you expedite this matter.

(Signed) John F. Kennedy