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Future
U.S. Territories
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FUTURE OF THE TTPI

1) Continued U.S. control over the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands which we hold under UN Trusteeship has become more important in a period of confrontation with China, developing weapons technology and changes in the Asian area.

2) We foresee future difficulties with the development of sentiment in the Islands for independence or for association with Japan. Over the long run, this trend could make continued U.S. control over the area a source of increasing embarrassment to us and even jeopardize U.S. control.

3) Despite the lack of progress toward economic development, the present sentiment of the population is overwhelmingly pro-American. We wish to utilize this fact to take decisive and irreversible action to tie the area to the U.S. and to dissolve its connection with the UN.

4) We would propose holding a plebiscite under UN auspices sometime within the next two years giving the TTPI inhabitants the choice of (a) continuation of the present status, (b) immediate independence, or (c) status as a self-governing territory of the United States, a status to be reached after a period of (3-5) years as a non-self-governing territory. At the same time as the plebiscite, a Micronesian Chief of State would be elected. A U.S. resident representative would carry the residual powers of the U.S. and be the prime contact for economic aid and development. If this last alternative were to be selected by the population, as appears most probable, we would continue to be responsible for reporting to the UN until self-governing status was reached. At that point we would consider, on the basis both of the plebiscite and the new status, that our trusteeship responsibility was dissolved. We believe we would have a good case for this which would hold water internationally and in the TTPI.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B.H. RAAS DATE 7/25/87

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OS- 421869