

DECLASSIFIED

12558 03

SECRET

August 17, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

SUBJECT : Future of United States-administered Territories.

Mr. Secretary:

I have reviewed the attached memorandum in the light of my own experience with the matter over a period of three years. I believe that the essential points can be stated more forcefully. I quote from a memorandum I sent Walt Rostow on July 22, 1965:

"The essential immediate step, as I see it, is to get the Secretary to urge the President to choose a suitable person, to be attached to the White House staff, probably as a Special Assistant to the President, to give full time to this problem: not only to get agreement within the government on a plan but then to see it through. Three years of experience have demonstrated that it is not feasible to get fast forward movement on a comprehensive plan under the Interior Department, which has the civil authority for administering the territory. And the highly possessive House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the appropriations sub-committees will not permit State to take over the responsibility. The Defense Department also has a lively interest in the matter, and HEW too gets into the act through various welfare programs for the islands.

SEP 22 1965

"The only

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

OS- 421622

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

-2-

"The only way to break out of the doldrums is to fix the responsibility in the White House under one man -- some such person as Carlton Skinner, who, as Governor of Guam, managed the transition there and is now senior U.S. member of the South Pacific Commission. (I don't know that he could leave his private affairs to give full time to this but he should be consulted on the choice of a man.)"

Ernest K. Lindley

Attachment:

Memorandum to you  
from IO - Mr. Sisco  
of August 9, 1965.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

OS-421623