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Dear John:

Enclosed for consideration by the Department of the Interior are copies of an analytical study, "Planning for the Future of United States Territories and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands," which is designed to provide the basis for a recommendation by the Secretary of State that the President:

1. Direct the preparation and implementation on an urgent basis of a program providing for a terminal status for United States territories and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which ensures their continuing association with the United States and fulfills the obligations of the United States under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement;
2. Vest responsibility for direction and coordination of both preparation and implementation of the program in a Special Assistant to the President; and
3. Authorize us to inform Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom of our intentions at the appropriate time.

We would appreciate such comments as may result from your consideration of both the basic study and the accompanying draft National Security Action Memorandum. I am concurrently addressing a similar request to Assistant



**John Carver,**  
Under Secretary,  
Department of the  
Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B. H. BAAS DATE 4/10/8

RDS  or XDS  EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TS AUTH. \_\_\_\_\_ REASON(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED  RELEASABLE

RELEASE DENIED

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

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Secretary McLaughlin at the Department of Defense. We hope to be able to complete the preliminary staff work by the end of the month.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Sisco

Enclosure:

"Planning for the Future of United States Territories  
and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands"

IO:UMP:DFM:Henry:mlp  
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