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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
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EXCISE RM/R0

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Dear John:

As you know the Department of State has been grappling with a problem of deep concern to both our Departments: how best to effectively remove the United States non-self-governing territories and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from legitimate international scrutiny and at the same time meet our obligations under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement

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We have now completed an analytical study of the problem. Insofar as the strategic interests of the United States are concerned we have been guided in these proposals by the Navy Point Paper attached to Secretary Nitze's memorandum of November 6, 1964 to the Secretary of Defense and by the Joint Chief's memorandum of February 5, 1965 to the Secretary of Defense.

In accordance with Jaff Kitchen's letter of March 12 to Peter Selbert stating that Department of State proposals on the territories question would be coordinated with the Department of Defense prior to submission to the White House, I enclose for consideration by the Department of Defense copies of our draft study, "Planning for the Future of United States Territories and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands," and of a suggested National Security Action Memorandum. We would appreciate such comments as

The Honorable  
 John T. McNaughton,  
 Assistant Secretary of Defense  
 for International Security Affairs.

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may result from that consideration. I would hope by the end of the month to be able to inform Secretary Bush he may indicate to the President that the Department of Defense concurs in the suggested approach.

I am concurrently sending a similar request to Mr. John Carver, Under Secretary, Department of the Interior.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Sisco

Enclosure:

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

*Smith*  
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