

min 01

7/6

2-26-66

TTPI

A. B. ...

1/3/85

SECRET

Dear John:

I am sending along a revised collection of papers dealing with the future of our territories. Although we have tried very hard to take into account the highly complicated problems which we discussed at our recent lunch together, we recognize that there are further difficulties to overcome, not the least of which will be to obtain Congressional cooperation from the very outset.

The paper is in no sense sacrosanct, and we are quite flexible. It is based on the assumption that some movement is required in all four territories. However, I hope that, as you examine the paper, you will also give us your current judgment on whether Congressional prospects would be better if we did not tie action on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to action on the other three territories. My own judgment is that we may be more likely to secure favorable consideration by the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee if we limit our proposals to the TTPI. I am inclined to think that there is a stronger proprietary feeling regarding our own three territories and that leap-frogging only the TTPI to a self-governing status associated with the United States might be easier to accomplish.

Because of the urgency of this matter I hope the papers can be given top priority. I have asked members of my staff to begin discussing this paper with Ruth Van Cleave

The Honorable

John A. Carver,

Under Secretary,

Department of the Interior.

SECRET

05 410050

SECRET

- 2 -

and the others in her office as well. I am anxious that we move together at every stage and that at an early date a full and candid discussion be held with the Chairman of the Interior Committee.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Sisco

Enclosure:

Papers on American territories

IO: JJSisco:UNP:RABrown:mle

2/25/66

SECRET

410051