

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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Box 5294

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

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I believe the enclosed report by Eugenie Anderson, our Representative on the United Nations Trusteeship Council, on her visit to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) warrants your personal attention. It is a keenly perceptive analysis of nascent political attitudes and of conditions in the TTPI which demand forthright action.

Ambassador Anderson recommends urgent pursuit by the Administration of a program designed to move the Trust Territory to direct sovereign control by the United States. President Kennedy authorized such action in 1962 in NSAM 145; its implementation will require a major increase in effort on a sustained basis.

The strategic importance of the Mariana, Caroline and Marshall island groupings which compose the TTPI has dictated our presence there as administering authority since World War II. The enhancement of that importance by the situation in Southeast Asia and the prospect of an increasingly hostile Communist China lends urgency to the task of ensuring a lasting relationship with the United States on terms compatible

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with the standards of democratic behavior the world community has come to expect from us and with this Administration's concept of the responsibilities of a Great Society. So too does the prospect of growing discontent with marginal living conditions and the limbo of an undefined future identity.

We now have under urgent preparation a concrete plan of action which is being discussed with the Department of the Interior and the Department of Defense. We hope to be able to forward our recommendations soon.

I am also forwarding copies of Ambassador Anderson's report to Secretaries Udall and McNamara.

Dean Rusk

Enclosure

Ambassador Anderson's report.

IO:UNP:DEM^{DM}ris/jc

Concurrences -

H - Amb. Torbert ^{DM}
E - Mr. Solomon ^{DM}

FE - Amb. Berger ^{DM}
G/PM - Capt. Coward ^{DM}

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