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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. BOSTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: U.S. Territorial Responsibility
in the Pacific

Attached is suggested language for comment on the document entitled U.S. Territorial Responsibility in the Pacific which Mr. Marvin Watson sent to me for review on April 19, 1966.

The Department does not recommend a detailed unclassified comment since much of the substance of the document involves classified information. Liberal and important excerpts from NSAM 145, classified Secret, and from the report of the Solomon Committee, classified Confidential, are cited. Although no classification appears on the document, we recommend that it be treated as Secret.

The responsibility for the civil administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), Guam and American Samoa rests with the Department of the Interior. Okinawa is the responsibility of the Department of Defense. Many organizational suggestions in the document will be of interest to these Departments, which can more appropriately comment on this aspect of the report. However, because of the international status of the TTPI and the non-self-governing status of Guam and American Samoa, the Department of State follows activities in these areas closely and offers for your information the following comments on the observations and suggestions contained in the report.

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Enclosures

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As you know, there has been considerable discussion of the need for increased political development in the TIFI. Proposals to insure the continued association of this strategic area with the United States without undue political cost internationally are now being considered by State, Interior and Defense. These proposals are designed to build upon the Territory-wide political consciousness which has been developed over the past few years and which saw its first formal organizational expression through the establishment of the Congress of Micronesia, the Territory-wide legislature which held its first meeting in July 1965.

There is no question that this is a difficult task. Cultural, language and geographic barriers as well as diverse aspirations exist among the six districts of the Trust Territory. The vast expanses of ocean which separate the islands place a considerable burden on the central civil administration. In spite of these difficulties the United States has sought to develop the territory as a whole rather than to contribute to the proliferation of tiny dependent and scattered political entities which has proved to be a significant barrier to economic and political development elsewhere in the Pacific.

We would expect the energetic and dedicated assistance which the newly appointed High Commissioner will have from the Peace Corps volunteers, along with the significant increase in federal expenditures foreseen in the budget authorization bill soon to be submitted to the Congress by Interior, to exert a dramatic influence on life in the Islands over the next two years.

The Territory of Guam, located as it is geographically within the Marianas District of the TIFI, is clearly in a position to influence both political thought and economic development in the Trust Territory. The Department of Defense will undoubtedly find of considerable interest the suggestions

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relating to the possibilities of procuring foodstuffs from the area and to the development of recreational facilities. Certainly such a market for Micronesian products and services could only contribute to the development of the economy of the Trust Territory.

The United States has long been committed to return the Ryukyu Islands to Japan.]

XW

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