

Memorandum

To: The Secretary
From: The Under Secretary
Subject: Trust Territory Miscellany

APR 28 1966

I want to call to your attention several Trust Territory matters which have recently arisen:

1. Assistant Secretary of State Sisco tells me that some time next week (May 2-6) Ambassador Goldberg hopes to meet with Congressman Aspinall and Senator Jackson. Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Sisco would like to be joined by someone from Interior, and I believe it would be fitting if you were to do so. I will so advise Mr. Sisco, if this is agreeable to you.
2. The Peace Corps program for the Trust Territory is moving very rapidly, as evidenced by the attached memorandum from Ross Fritchard, dated April 25. You will note that a meeting with the President is projected for Peace Corps Director Vaughn and you early next week, with a Presidential announcement of the program to follow soon thereafter. I think it crucial that the Peace Corps announcement not precede transmission of the Trust Territory ceiling bill to the Hill. I have so advised Charles Johnson (by memorandum, a copy of which is attached), and I urge you to ask Charles Schultze to do everything possible to expedite the ceiling bill. A memorandum from you to him for this purpose is attached.
3. I understand that the Solicitor's Office has not reached a conclusion on the question whether the existing ceiling law would have the effect of reducing our entitlement to appropriations by the amount the Peace Corps expends on the Trust Territory program. (We are asking the Solicitor's Office to expedite answering this question, because of the speed with which the Peace Corps matter is developing.) If the Solicitor's opinion is that the law would have this effect (thereby reducing the \$17,500,000 which we seek for the next year by an undetermined, but doubtless substantial amount), the desirability of the Peace Corps program should be re-examined. If the Solicitor's Office concludes that it would not have this effect, it is none the less crucial that the matter be discussed, in advance of a Presidential announcement, with the Chairman of our committee. If we do not have their informal acquiescence in the proposed Peace Corps undertaking,

we risk arguments of back-door financing, because the Peace Corps' plan can be viewed as an augmentation of our Trust Territory appropriations, and we thereby risk serious jeopardy to the Trust Territory ceiling bill. Of the two efforts, I think we are all in agreement that the ceiling bill is vastly more important, in both the long and the short run. I thus believe that if you accompany Ambassador Goldberg to the Hill next week, the Peace Corps' matter should be discussed with Messrs. Aspinall and Jackson.

4. I have asked the Office of Territories to supply to you early next week a briefing memorandum, touching upon other subjects that might profitably be discussed during the proposed meeting.

(sgc) John A. Carver, Jr.

John A. Carver, Jr.

Enclosures 3

cc: Secretary's files

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4/28/66