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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY

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May 2, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

This memorandum summarizes positions of various DOD and State officers on the status of the TTPI and results from separate conversations with the named individuals on 29 April and 2&4 May.

OSD/ISA/Far East Affairs: Mr. Nuechterlein is relatively new and unfamiliar with the situation. Upon my review, he was receptive to doing whatever might be necessary to ensure a favorable reception by the Micronesians of a more permanent relation with the United States.

OSD/ISA/PPS/Special Projects: L/Col. Walter A. Wood has a long background in the subject and is anxious for permanent political arrangements, providing for U.S. military access to the area, to be concluded. When I raised the problem of having to be certain of the results of a plebiscite, he readily agreed, although he felt a vote would probably be in our favor.

J-5: Capt. Rizza has also worked on the subject for some time. He stated that the Pentagon was unhappy with the long stalemate between State and Interior and that the Joint Staff was preparing a recommendation to the SIG that the draft NSAM be forwarded to the White House as a State/DOD position in spite of Interior's opposition. He indicated that Amb. Goldberg is expected to write another letter on the subject to Secretary Rusk.

USAF/AFXPDI: Col. Rivers strongly favors a permanent relation between the TTPI and the U.S. but has serious doubts whether a plebiscite would favor the United States unless aid is expanded and the benefits conferred by the association are more evident.

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Army/DCSOPS/International Policy Division: Mr. McFarlane, State Exchange Officer, stated Army favors moving the Trust Territories toward a firm relationship with the U.S.

Navy/Pol-Mil Policy Division: Cdr. Cummins strongly favors a permanent relationship.

FE/SPA: Miss McReynolds is confident that the Micronesians would vote overwhelmingly in favor of association with the United States. She is sympathetic to Interior's problems and points out that they have the administrative responsibility and are the focal point for congressional, executive, and public criticism. Naturally, therefore, Interior tends to be somewhat conservative in approach. Nevertheless, Miss McReynolds believes Interior has failed to approach its problems with the necessary imagination or initiative. She welcomed G/PM's interest and hopes matters can be pushed along.

IO/UNP: Mr. McHenry reviewed the development of the situation over the last 18 months. He was quite critical of Interior's lack of a sense of urgency and pessimistic about the possibility of doing anything below the secretarial level. He suggested that the only way of moving the matter ahead in view of Interior's position is for Secretaries Rusk and McNamara to appeal to the President for a decision.

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