



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

May 10, 1966

SANITIZED

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSESubject: U.S. Territorial Responsibility in
the Pacific

Enclosed is suggested language for a reply by Mr. Marvin Watson concerning the document entitled U.S. Territorial Responsibility in the Pacific which Mr. James R. Jones 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 those 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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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-224By iq, NARA, Date 1-30-89~~SECRET~~
GROUP 3Downgraded at 12 year
intervals; not
automatically declassified

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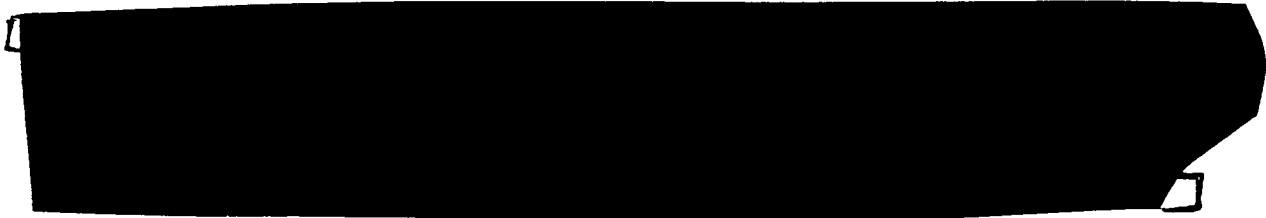
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(a)(5)

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.

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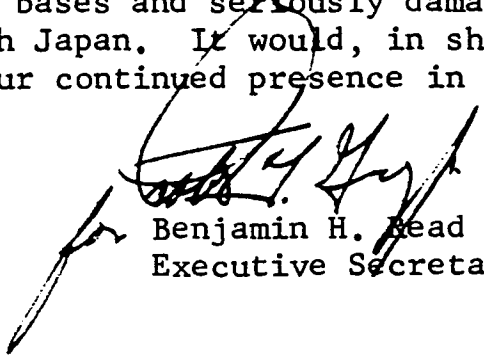
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The United States has long been committed to return the Ryukyu Islands to Japan. In light of this commitment and the manifest desires of the Ryukyuan people to be united with the Japanese homeland it would not be feasible to attempt a reversal of existing policy. Any moves by the United States to acquire permanent status in the Islands would encounter strong and emotional opposition, both in the Ryukyus and in Japan, and would reduce the effectiveness of our Ryukyuan military bases and seriously damage our valuable relationship with Japan. It would, in short, threaten rather than insure our continued presence in the islands.



Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

Draft letter

Correspondence returned

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DRAFT LETTER

Dear Arthur Burns:

The memorandum entitled "U.S. Territorial Responsibility in the Pacific" contains many interesting suggestions. I have passed them on to the Department of the Interior and to the Department of Defense, which are responsible for the administration of these territories, as well as to the State Department.

I am sure you are aware that substantially increased attention is being paid to the Pacific Islands in Washington at this time. Developments with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands are, I think, particularly significant. The arrival of ^{IN JULY} a ^{WITH WHOM J. JACOBSEN + I MET YESTERDAY} vigorous new High Commissioner ~~in~~ ~~July~~, armed with what we hope will be a very significant budget increase and several hundred Peace Corps volunteers, should get the Territory moving the way we know it must.

AND WHO IS THE

The Guamanians have a saying that America's day begins in Guam, a fact not many mainlanders realize. Let us hope that the ideals and vigorous promises of the American way of life can spread from that little outpost throughout the whole area as the people of the South Pacific move into the modern world.

Sincerely,

1.1/1961