

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JIM JONES

Here is the Trust Territory file that you were kind enough to lend me. I'm not certain of the identity of the author of the memo, but if it is Jack Burns or one of his close associates it may not be sufficiently responsive or warm in tone. Obviously this is something for you and Marvin to decide.

As far as the substance of the memo itself is concerned, I suggest that it be referred to Walt for further handling in view of the fact that we have been working with State, Interior, Defense and the Peace Corps on a new program, part of which has already been announced. I have in mind sending copies of the memo to Interior and Defense for an initial reaction, even though their attitude is predictable.

I think the idea of dividing up the Territory for purposes of administration deserves serious consideration and even though it may not be practical at the present time from a policy point of view, it is certainly worth considering for the phase following a plebiscite. There is no question in my mind that the administration of the Trust Territory as a single entity for the indefinite future is a nightmare.


Charles E. Johnson

SECRET Attachment

TO: CHARLES JOHNSON

FROM: JIM JONES

Attached is the Trust Territories file.
Mr. Watson has not replied to the letter
yet. Therefore, I assume you want to
see State's suggested draft reply which is
attached. If it is approved, please send it
to me for Marvin Watson's signature.

May 14, 1966



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

May 10, 1966

SANITIZED

6497

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: 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.

SANITIZED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 88-224

By ig, NARA, Date 1-30-89

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12 year
intervals; not
automatically declassified

~~SECRET~~

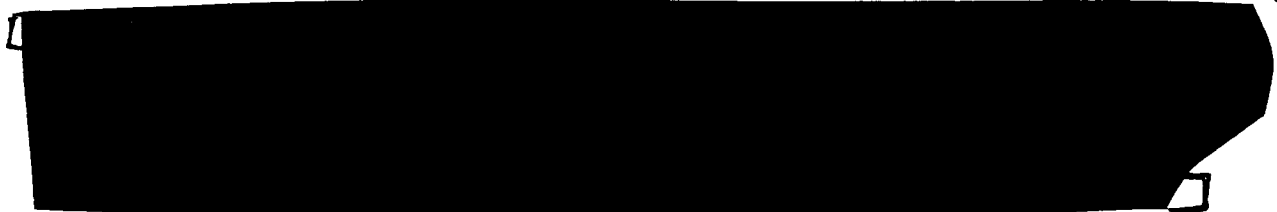
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1.3
(a)(5)

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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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. Bead
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

Draft letter

Correspondence returned

~~SECRET~~

DRAFT LETTER

Dear Andrew Young:

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 WITH J. J. + I MET

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,

Handwritten signature