

CONFIDENTIAL

89
TIP 101

CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 31 1966

Honorable John T. McNaughton
Assistant Secretary of Defense for
International Security Affairs

Dear John:

As a follow-up to our luncheon with Secretary Udall, I am enclosing for your consideration a draft memorandum I would propose to send to the Secretary of State recommending a program of action for the future political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Though it has some doubts as to feasibility, Interior has now agreed that we should jointly seek Congressional reactions to the program in informal consultations with the Committees concerned. I myself believe the program is the best available to meet the objectives of both Defense and State in assuring continued association of the Trust Territory with the United States and removing it from United Nations supervision.

I would very much appreciate any comments you may have. You might also bear in mind the importance of having Secretary McManus join Secretaries Rusk and Udall and Ambassador Goldberg in consultations with Congress.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Sisco

Enclosure:

Draft memorandum

GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals;
not automatically declassified

IO:UNP:DRMorris:gs 5/23/66

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE *clear*

CONFIDENTIAL

05-415333

DECLASSIFIED

03
7

Draft

MEMORANDUM TO: The Secretary
THROUGH: S/S
FROM: IO - Joseph J. Sisco
SUBJECT: Implementation Plans for the Future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

You will recall that I have mentioned on several occasions the problem of the future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. We have now developed, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, a program of action designed to provide the inhabitants of the Trust Territory an early opportunity to exercise their right of self-determination under circumstances which (1) will assure the continued association of the Territory with the United States, an essential objective from the standpoint of American strategic national interests in the Far East, and (2) will eventually remove the Trust Territory from United Nations supervision.

We would propose holding a plebiscite under UN auspices sometime within the next two years giving the TTFI inhabitants the choice of (a) continuation of the present status, (b) immediate independence, or (c) status as a self-governing territory of the United States, a status to be reached after a period of three to five years as a non-self-governing territory. At the same time as the plebiscite, a Micronesian Chief Executive would be elected. A U.S. resident representative would carry the residual powers of the U.S. and be the prime contact for economic aid and development. If this last alternative were to be selected by the population, as appears most probable, we would continue to be responsible for reporting to the UN until self-governing status was reached. At that point we would consider, on the basis both of the plebiscite and

CONFIDENTIAL
Group 4

6c

DECLASSIFIED

OS-415334

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

the new status, that our trusteeship responsibility was dissolved. We believe we would have a good case for this which would hold water internationally and in the TTPI. Ambassador Goldberg endorses this approach.

I have discussed this proposal with the Under Secretary of the Interior, John Carver. Although Interior has reservations about the feasibility of the plan and considers it will not be well received by the Congress, it has no objection to placing the plan before the Congressional leadership. Interior will be glad to indicate its unstinting willingness to execute the plan, if the Congress agrees to it.

Defense supports our formula as a way of achieving its objective of assuring U.S. control over the TTPI for strategic reasons and wishes to move ahead as rapidly as possible.

If initial consultations with the Congress proved fruitful we would then be in a position, jointly with Interior, to recommend a detailed action program to the President.

Recommendation

That you authorize Ambassador Goldberg and me to participate, together with Under Secretary Carver and other appropriate representatives of Interior, and with representatives of Defense, in early consultations on the Hill to see whether such a program would be acceptable to the Congress.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Date _____

Clearance: H -

IO:UTP:EA Brown/JDean/jc
5/27/66

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

05- 415335