JUNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

June 1, 1966 DATE:

FROM

13, H. 13445 DATE 3/25/8)

REVIEWED BY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR

TO

IO - Mr. Sisco

UNP - Elizabeth A. Brown

SUBJECT:

Meeting with Interior Secretary Udall on Future of PM Today -- BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

In the attached briefing book you will find the background documents pertinent to the problem of the future political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. (Since Defense has specifically signed on to McHenry's original paper which dealt with the three U.S. Territories as well as the TTPI and since the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is requesting the Senior Interdepartmental Group to consider the McHenry approach, you will find in a separate brown binder both the September 7, 1965 draft approved by Defense and the later February 16,1966 draft subsequently discussed with Interior but not with Defense.)

I suggest the following talking points:

There are indications that opinion leaders in the nation, and looking for some sort of political identity other than "wards" of the United Nations. Although curtently favorably disposed toward casting their lot permanently with the United States there is some danger the TTPI inhabitants will a TTPI are restless, conscious of economic and social stagmanently with the United States there is some danger the TTPI inhabitants will in the future become more vocal in their discontent and look toward other possibilities including independence or some form of association with apan if we do not move faster toward political selfdetermination. Development of this tendency could in the long run jeopardize our control over the area.

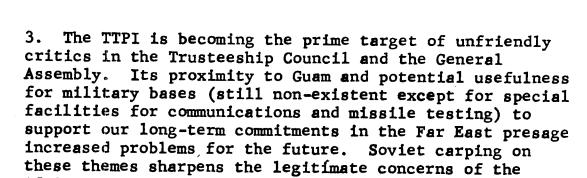
The United States strategic interest in continued control over the islands of the TTPI has been reaffirmed by the Department of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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Africans and Asians about the lack of political develop-

- 4. State believes there is room in the United States political system for a political relationship with a self-governing TTPI similar to the Puerto Rican experience. The situation demands we devise a means to achieve such a relationship which will make the TTPI a permanent part of the United States and will remove it from United Nations supervision.
- 5. Some officials of Interior have indicated a view that the inhabitants are not yet capable of running their own affairs. If this is really true, although many other societies are making shift with a similar situation, then they can be supplied with the advice they need. The important thing is to give the people the chance to work out their own economic and social futures with our help.
- 6. Thus, the proposal in the draft memorandum to the Secretary approaches the goal in two stages. It provides for an apprenticeship period of three-five years, during which the development of the necessary political and economic infrastructure can be nurtured by U.S. officials. If it doesn't work, our proposal is flexible enough to make necessary additions. The important thing is to take action now while we have full control.

10:UNP:DRMorris:cap

ment in the TTPI.