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**MEMORANDUM TO:** The Under Secretary

**THROUGH:** S/S

**FROM:** IO - Joseph J. Sisco

**SUBJECT:** Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands:  
 INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY B.H. BAAS	DATE 3/2/87
RDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE	TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>	DECLASSIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RELEASE DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>	PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

You may recall when you met with IO we mentioned the critical problem of the future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI). We are committed by treaty to give the people of the Territory the right of self-determination; our problem is to find a way to do so in circumstances ensuring the continued association of the area with the United States, which is essential for strategic reasons, and removing it from further UN supervision. The task is complicated by our poor record in the Territory; the attached article from the U.S. News and World Report of November 21 (Tab A) is a good example of recent criticism. This year U.S. administration will receive international special attention since a visiting mission (Australia, France, Liberia, United Kingdom) will inspect the Territory early in 1967 and report to the UN Trusteeship Council.

Despite general recognition that we are devoting inadequate resources to the TTPI, proposals for increased appropriations died with the 89th Congress; they will be resubmitted. One positive step in 1966 was the introduction of a number of

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Peace Corps volunteers on whom we are relying for increased assistance in the fields of elementary education, public health and community development.

The Congress of Micronesia, on August 3, 1966, adopted a resolution (Tab B) asking the High Commissioner and the Secretary of the Department of the Interior "to use their good offices" to petition the President "to establish a commission to consult the people of Micronesia to ascertain their wishes and views, and to study and critically assess the political alternatives open to Micronesia" and to report their findings not later than December 31, 1968. We hope this resolution may enhance our efforts to reach agreement within the U.S. Government on a program for the TTPI, though Interior feels the Congress would probably have to establish such a commission.

State and Defense believe that any course of action must insure the permanent association of the TTPI with the U.S. and provide the degree of political autonomy consistent with this relationship necessary to remove it decisively from further UN supervision. We favor early arrangements for a plebiscite in which the people of the Territory would be able to choose their future status from among different options, followed by action in the UN to demonstrate that the people of the TTPI had

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exercised their right of self-determination. Attached is a paper describing such a possible course of action (Tab C).

Progress along these lines has foundered on Interior's opposition. Its position is based on the beliefs: (1) Any program for the TTPI must conform to the policies we have followed over the years in dealing with exclusively American territories and must not provide a status for the TTPI better than that now enjoyed by Guam, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands; and (2) it is preferable for the Congress to take the initiative on the TTPI, particularly since it ~~must~~ must act to implement the final arrangements and must also appropriate funds to administer the TTPI. Action on this basis would not achieve our long-range objective for the TTPI of permanent association with the U.S. on a basis conforming to the obligations of the Trusteeship Agreement and the Charter.

In light of the frustrating experiences on this problem so far, including the failure to obtain Congressional authorization for essential increases in financial support for the TTPI, we believe the time has come for an all-out effort to achieve a solution. Our best judgment is that the most effective way to proceed at this juncture is to clear proposals within the Government, and launch as soon as possible in the new Congress an extensive "educational" campaign covering members of the

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relevant committees of both the Senate and the House with a view to obtaining necessary legislative support for the steps which must be taken at an early date in order that arrangements for a plebiscite can go forward.

A logical first step would be a meeting under the auspices of the State Department, preferably at Cabinet level, including Interior, Defense, and Ambassador Goldberg, to set the policy framework for action and to agree on the means for its execution; possibly a NSAM, perhaps supplemented by designation of a Special Assistant to the President might be one way to move ~~xxxx~~ ahead.

Attachments:

Tab A

Tab B

Tab C

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