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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
POLICY PLANNING COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

Let's be sure
don't lose track of
a good job.

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January 16, 1967

MEMORANDUM

To: S/P - Mr. Owen

From: S/P - W. W. Behrens Jr. *WBB*

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Subject: Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands

Over the last two months since being given subject assignment, I have done extensive reading and studying on the TTPI. I have profited from Ernest Lindley's briefings on his TTPI work, and have his files for background. Also, I have talked with the knowledgeable people in UNP, EA, Interior and Defense. Each has given me valuable information and assistance.

My first intention was to prepare a paper outlining the background, present status, and possible future of the TTPI. I still plan this as a goal, but I also came soon to realize that no one in one Department could submit meaningful recommendations without first accomplishing new understandings among the Departments concerned -- State, Interior and Defense, plus probably a representative of the White House staff. There also remain the very large interests of the UN and Congress.

To move toward constructive progress I have formed an inter-departmental, low key, ad hoc working group. Interior (Mrs. Van Cleve, Director of Territories), with responsibility for TTPI administration, will chair the group's meetings. In addition to 3 Interior members, State will have 3 members (myself, Robert Lindquist or alternate from EA, and Elizabeth Brown or alternate from UNP), Defense (ISA) and JCS will have a member each, and NSC will provide a member. Our purpose at this point will not be to establish policy nor to cause any over-night political adjustments, but rather to examine anew the problems and needs of the TTPI, air the different departmental concerns, and attempt to develop a program which we can agree on and can recommend as one which will lead to new political progress in the TTPI. The ultimate objective, as passed to me, remains the same: "To bring the Trust Territories into a closer, lasting association with the U.S." It is recognized that a later date

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B.H. RAAS DATE 3/25/87

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after the ad hoc working group has done its homework, any program or recommendations we can develop will have to receive proper bureaucratic approval before any specific actions might be undertaken.

The working group also is conscious of the adverse effect that improper notoriety about the group's efforts conceivably could have on the TTPI appropriations "Ceiling Bill" due to come before Congress, as well as the UN and other international implications involved. Further, the group will treat exclusively with the longer range political objectives in the TTPI and will not expect in its meetings to deal with the forthcoming UN Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories, with the Canberra meeting ahead, nor with other purely operational matters.

The first meeting of the ad hoc working group has been scheduled for 2:00 PM on Wednesday, the 18th January, in Interior, Room 6514.

cc: EA-Robert Lindquist
UNP-Elizabeth A. Brown
S/P-Ernest Lindley

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