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MEMORANDUM

TO : The Secretary
THROUGH: S/S
FROM : IO - Joseph J. Sisco

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1-26-67

SUBJECT: Courtesy Call by the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Tuesday, January 31, 3:45 P.M.
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

You have agreed to a courtesy call by the United Nations Visiting Mission to the U.S. administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Tab A). Our representative on the Trusteeship Council, Ambassador Eugenie Anderson, and I will accompany the members of the Mission:

1. Miss Angie Brooks (Liberia)
2. Mr. Pierre Basdevant (France)
3. Mr. Richard Posnet (United Kingdom)
4. Mr. Kenneth H. Rogers (Australia)

The Mission's call upon you will conclude two days of conferences with U.S. officials in Washington (Tab B). On February 10, the Mission departs from Honolulu for a five week visit to the Trust Territory.

Suggested Remarks

1. Express hope all arrangements are satisfactory and wish the Mission a good trip.
2. Without being precise, assure the Visiting Mission that we are aware of the need to improve conditions in the Trust Territory and are greatly accelerating our programs there. You might cite the beginning of the Peace Corps program in Micronesia in 1966 as an example.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B.H. BAAS DATE 3/21/87

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ / REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE

RELEASE DENIED

PA FOR EXEMPTIONS

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3. Express interest in Visiting Mission's findings on return.

BACKGROUND

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), is one of only three remaining territories in the Trusteeship System. (The others are the island of Nauru and New Guinea.) The TTPI is the only "strategic" trust territory under Article 82 of the Charter of the United Nations. It is also unique in its size and geography, covering an ocean expanse of 3,000,000 square miles, with a land area of only 687 square miles and a population of some 90,000. It includes the Marshall, Carolines, and Marianas island groups. Nine major languages are spoken in the Territory.

While in the Trust Territory the Visiting Mission will be looking for progress (or lack of it) in economic, educational, social, and political fields, especially progress toward the ultimate goal of self-determination or independence required by the Trusteeship Agreement. They are also expected to take a particularly hard look at the medical facilities, the subject of a highly critical WHO visiting mission report in 1966.

Prior to the courtesy call, our plans regarding future status of the Territory will already have been discussed with the Visiting Mission. We do not intend to reveal our present tentative thinking for a plebiscite in the Territory, but rather to make the following points:

1. Our present efforts are aimed at greatly accelerating all phases of our program in the territory;
2. These efforts concentrate on increasing the rate of expenditure and development, and on extensive and comprehensive surveys for future development;
3. The United States anticipates that largely as a result of the acceleration of all phases of its program the inhabitants of the Trust Territory will make their decision

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regarding the future political status of the Territory within a "reasonable period of time."

4. The timing of the Territory's expression of self-determination has not been fixed and will be largely determined by the wishes of the people of the Territory as expressed by the Congress of Micronesia and by the success of that Congress in developing a sense of community within the Territory and in acting as a governing body for its widely scattered and differing people.

5. Some members of the Mission may ask about a resolution of the Micronesian Congress requesting the establishment of a commission to study the Territory's future. We intend to answer in a very general way so as not to complicate our own decision on how to proceed.

The question of Micronesian claims will also have been discussed. Micronesians have claims for loss of life and property during the Second World War -- war damage claims in whose satisfaction the Trusteeship Council is much interested. Last year, the Department appointed a special representative who discussed settlement of the claims with the Government of Japan, our proposal being that Japan and the United States join in an ex gratia payment of \$10,000,000 to the Congress of Micronesia for distribution among the claimants. When you were in Japan last July, you informed the GOJ of our interest in early settlement of the problem. The GOJ has not yet responded to our proposals. We are endeavoring to promote resumption and successful conclusion of negotiations before the 1967 session of the Trusteeship Council.

Attachments:

- TAB A - Original Memorandum
- TAB B - Tentative Schedule

IO:UNP:RTJones:DFMcHenry:jpc
1/26/67

Clearance: EA - Miss McNutt