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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 POLICY PLANNING COUNCIL
 WASHINGTON
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February 2, 1967

To: S/P - Mr. Owen

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

Subject: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI)

This subject has been moving at a fast pace ever since the meeting on January 17th of the ad hoc working group which I instigated. Interior was persuaded to promote the working group -- and thereby insure that the problem came off dead center -- by discussion of the pros and cons of appointing a White House Special Assistant for the TTPI (an indirect threat, so far as Interior leadership was concerned). The creation of the working group, as you know, was sufficient to motivate IO(UNP) to new activity.

As a result of subsequent telephone discussions -- between Joe Sisco and Under Secretary of Interior Luce, Sisco and John McNaughton in ISA, and Sisco and Charles Johnson in NSC -- brand new attention has been directed toward resolving the political future of the TTPI. Interior and those of us involved in this Department have been working diligently. Defense, according to reports, also is busy and long working hours on this subject have been imposed.

Monday and Tuesday this week were devoted primarily to briefing the TTPI Visiting Mission of the UN Trusteeship Council, chaired by Miss Angie Brooks of Liberia, a strong proponent of self-determination and independence. I thought these briefings, largely led by Interior with IO, went as well as could be expected. A luncheon hosted by Interior Assistant Secretary Anderson and another hosted by Under Secretary Rostow were successful. I attended both of these, as well as representing S/P when the Secretary received the Visiting Mission just before their departure Tuesday afternoon.

By separate correspondence you will have for consideration a Draft Memorandum to the Under Secretary on the Political Future of the TTPI.

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