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I-1024/67

February 3, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL WHEELOCK, DIRECTOR, POLICY
PLANNING STAFF/ISA

SUBJECT: Future Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific
Islands

REF: Your Memorandum (I-1024/67) dated 23 January 1967

The referenced memorandum requested the concurrence/comments
of this office on two points involved in this subject:

"(1) The use of the Commission approach.

"(2) The specific language of the attached letter to the Speaker
and proposed bill."

The alternative to the Commission approach appears to be a plebiscite
at this time. Clearly, the Department of Defense would be better able
to influence the choices regarding the future status of the TTPI through
the Commission approach rather than through a plebiscite. It is
noted, however, that Section 5(c) of the proposed bill ("the Commission
shall consult with the people of Micronesia so as to ascertain their
wishes and views") is broad enough to authorize the Commission, if
it so decided, to hold such a plebiscite.

It would appear desirable from the Department of Defense point of
view to charge the Commission with the duty of examining the military
implications of the various alternatives and to make recommendations
based thereon. For this reason it is suggested that the following
paragraph be inserted in the proposed bill as Section 5(d) (relettering
the subsequent subparagraphs):

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"(d) Consider the political, military, economic and social consequences to the people of Micronesia and the people of the United States of each of the above-mentioned alternatives in order to determine the steps which should be taken to serve the best interests of both people."

By language along these lines, the interests of the United States as well as the interests of the TTPI must be considered by each of the members of the Commission.

SIGNED

Jerome H. Silber
Office of the Assistant General Counsel
International Affairs /dhs

cc: Mr. Niederlehner

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Subject: ILP-Trust Territory ←

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