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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: April 10, 1967

SUBJECT: Political Future of the TTPI

PARTICIPANTS:

Department of State

Acting Secretary Katzenbach  
Assistant Secretary Sisco, IO  
Ambassador Anderson, New York  
William Gleysteen, UNP  
Herbert Reis, L/UNA

Interior

Under Secretary Luce  
Assistant Secretary Anderson  
Mrs. Ruth Van Cleve, Director,  
Office of Territories

Defense

Townsend Hoopes, ISA  
Major General W. T. Fairbourn, JCS  
Lt. Colonel Walter Wood, ISA

White House

~~Charles Johnson~~  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [Signature] DATE FEB. 25 1987

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In response to Acting Secretary Katzenbach's request for comments on the State Department paper concerning the future of the Trust Territory, Under Secretary Luce listed several areas of agreement; -- i.e. that we were agreed U.S. sovereignty should be extended to the Trust Territory promptly, that a plebiscite should be held without too much delay, and that there should be some sort of commission engaging the Congress in plans for the Territory's future. The main difference was that Interior favored making the TTPI a non-self-governing territory similar to American Samoa and Guam

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while the State Department favored some form of self-government. Mr. Luce suggested this and other problems might best be left to a commission to decide.

Mr. Katzenbach emphasized most strongly that the U.S. could not offer a choice to the people of Micronesia which was inconsistent with our international commitments. An offer of non-self-governing status would not fulfill our obligation under Article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement and would not, therefore, help us end the UN's role in the Territory. Contemporary political realities reinforced the need to offer self-government as the alternative to independence so that this particular issue should not be left to be resolved by the commission. In other words a commission would have to work within the frame of our international commitments.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the concept of commonwealth status was sufficiently broad to encompass a status for the TTPI which would allow us to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement and meet the requirements of Congress. There would have to be enough content to justify the term "self-government" but there would be ample scope for Congress to deal with problems such as budgetary control. Mr. Katzenbach thought that in considering an elected chief executive and other features of commonwealth status the Congress would understand special considerations in the case of the TTPI. It was quite possible, however, that it would see fit to expedite self-government in the American territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands to accord with the status given the TTPI.

Mr. Hoopes said Defense could go along with whatever arrangements were agreeable to State and Interior. Defense preferred the State Department proposal for a commission which would function within guidelines established in advance by the Executive Branch in consultation with Congress, but Defense would like to see an early plebiscite. The meeting agreed that a plebiscite should be held as soon as feasible considering the preparations which would have to be made for adoption of commonwealth status.

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In conclusion, it was agreed we would proceed on the basis of the State Department's draft concurrent resolution to produce the final text setting forth the functions and guidelines for the Commission. After approval of an agreed draft, Interior, State and Defense should be prepared to start the necessary missionary work with various committees of Congress.

It was also understood that the Presidentially appointed members of the Commission would include both Government and public members and that the Commission would have to operate on the basis of a broad consensus.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITHOLDING SHEET

#423 Department of State memorandum of conversation (Acting Secretary of State Katzenbach, Under Secretary of Interior Luce, Mr. Townsend Hoopes of Defense and staff), dated April 10, 1967. Three pages, classified Secret. Withheld in full. The entire contents are withheld under both B1 and B5.

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