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Mr. Hughes

April 17, 1967

Resources and Civil Works (R.H. Austin)

Political Future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

We understand that Assistant Secretary Anderson called you on Friday about a revised Interior draft bill to provide for a commission to resolve the political future of the Trust Territory.

The revised bill is attached. It is the product of the Luce-Eitzenbach summit meeting held April 10 to iron out irreconcilable staff differences on the Territory's future. The meeting apparently solved procedural problems like whether to have a commission and how many and that sort of members.

We are told that a Republican Senator (probably Fong) is ready to introduce a commission bill before Jackson gets his chance to introduce an administration bill. Interior interprets this as a challenge to come up with a bill fast or go to Jackson with unlearned drafting service.

We recommend that we not react before we have a chance to show this around the Bureau and to see what reactions State and Defense have. State will probably suspect Interior of manufacturing a crisis which is a reasonable presumption given the history of poor relations at the staff level. More importantly, however, we suspect that the Luce-Eitzenbach meeting did not solve the basic question of where we are headed with the Territory. We will need to check this out more thoroughly before clearing legislation. One means will be the cross-circulation of staff notes on the meeting of April 10, 1967.

REPRODUCED FROM COPIES OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

JOINT RESOLUTION

Regarding the status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Whereas the United States is the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, pursuant to the Trusteeship Agreement between the United States of America and the Security Council of the United Nations; and

Whereas the United States, in the Trusteeship Agreement, undertook a solemn obligation to "foster the development of such political institutions as are suited to the trust territory" and to "promote the development of the inhabitants of the trust territory toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the trust territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned;" and

Whereas the United States, in the Trusteeship Agreement, further undertook a solemn obligation to promote the economic, social, and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory; and

Whereas the Congress of Micronesia has petitioned the President to "establish a commission to consult the people of Micronesia to ascertain their wishes and views, and to study and critically assess the political alternatives open to Micronesia;" and

Whereas the President has proposed to establish a commission in response to such petition and has invited Congressional participation; and

Whereas the United States is dedicated to the principle of government by consent of the governed; and

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Whereas the Congress by enacting Public Law 90-___ has evidenced its support for an intensive program to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Trust Territory: Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the sense of Congress that such steps as may be necessary shall be taken to provide for a degree of self-government that will permit the people of the Trust Territory freely to express their wishes as soon as possible, and not later than June 30, 1972, on the future status of the Trust Territory.

SEC. 2. In addition to eight members of the Commission to be appointed by the President, the appointment of eight members of Congress to serve on the President's Commission on the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is hereby authorized. Four of such members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, two to be from among the members of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and one each from among the members of the Committees on Foreign Relations and Armed Services; and four shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two to be from among the members of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and one each from among the members of the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Armed Services. The Chairman of the Commission shall be designated by the President.

SEC. 3. The Commission shall study and assess all factors bearing upon the future of the Trust Territory and shall consult as appropriate with representatives of the people of Micronesia. The initial meeting of the Commission shall be held no later than 60 days after the approval by the President of this joint resolution, and the Commission shall, no later than eight months after funds for the Commission are appropriated and made available to the Commission, submit recommendations to the President and to the Congress of the United States concerning the best means to obtain the objective set forth in section 1.

SEC. 4. Employees of the Executive branch may be detailed to assist in the work of the Commission, with or without reimbursement. Members of the Commission who may be appointed by the President from among the public may be compensated to the extent of \$75 per day plus travel expenses and per diem in lieu of subsistence when engaged in the work of the Commission. The Commission is authorized to procure services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

SEC. 5. There is authorized to be appropriated out of moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated such funds as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution, but not to exceed \$200,000.

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