



UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Dear Mr. Schultze:

On February 7, 1967, we sent to you a proposed bill "To establish a commission on the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands," and a proposed letter transmitting the bill to the Speaker of the House. Subsequently, further discussions with representatives of the Department of State and the Department of Defense have been held and the Department of the Interior has submitted to you an issue paper on this subject. The foregoing led also to my recent meeting with Under Secretary of State Katzenbach, at which meeting it was decided that the three interested Departments would join in supporting a proposal, drafted by the State Department in the form of a concurrent resolution, for a Presidential commission with Congressional participation. It was further agreed that representatives of the three Departments, at the working level, would undertake to modify the State Department's draft in such minor particulars as might appear desirable and mutually acceptable.

There is enclosed for your consideration a proposed Joint Resolution "Regarding the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands." This proposal is the accomplishment of the working level group and has the approval of the Department of the Interior. It yet requires final approval by the Department of State and the Department of Defense, which approval we hope can be obtained with a minimum of delay through the Bureau's clearance process.

We are not unmindful of the fact that in referring this proposal to you we have omitted furnishing accompanying explanatory material. That material is in preparation and we expect that it will be sent to you shortly. Until that material is received, we suggest that this Department's issue paper, our February 7 submission, and such other documents as may have been furnished the Bureau by the other interested agencies, continue to be a valid source of general explanatory information relative to the historical relationship of the Trust Territory to the United States and to the United Nations, our obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement, and the general propositions which have motivated the effort reflected in the proposed Joint Resolution. An expression of the views of the people of Micronesia, which gave considerable impetus to our efforts, is a part of our February 7 submission in the form of House Joint Resolution No. 47 of the Congress of Micronesia, Second Regular Session 1966. The foregoing documents,

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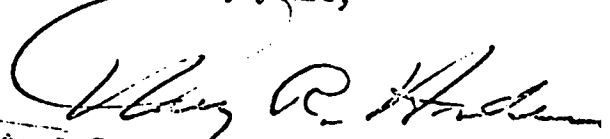
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however, should be disregarded insofar as they treat specific duties and functions of the proposed Commission. These matters will be dealt with in the forthcoming explanatory material.

All of the interested agencies are in agreement that time is a significant factor in this instance and we are anxious to have an appropriate proposal go to the Congress soon. Because the enclosed proposal, both by its nature and its express language, involves the President in a personal way, we have embarked upon this course of piecemeal referral. By this course of action we hope that the additional clearances and consultations that will be required because of the Presidential involvement can be accommodated in a time frame consistent with what we sincerely believe is the necessity for prompt action.

We shall appreciate your consideration of this proposal, and we stand ready to provide you with any additional information or assistance that you might require.

Sincerely yours,



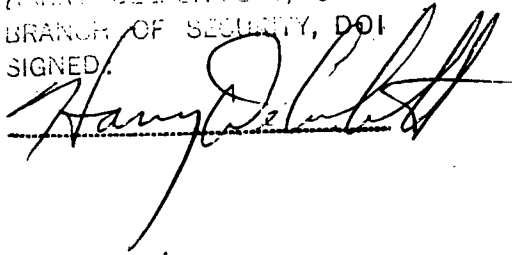
Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Charles L. Schultze
Director, Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

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

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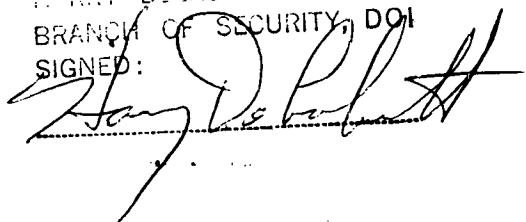
Whereas the President has proposed to establish a commission in response to such petition and has invited Congressional participation; and

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 whatever steps may be necessary shall be taken to provide for such a degree of self-government as 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 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

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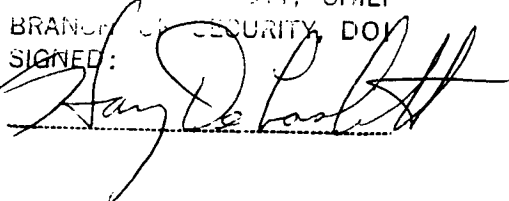
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on Foreign Affairs, and Armed Services. . An additional member shall be appointed by the President, and shall serve as Chairman.

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 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. Any member of the Commission who may be appointed by the President from among the public shall be compensated \$75 per diem for his services when engaged on Commission business, and all members shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual travel and per diem in lieu of subsistence when engaged on Commission business. 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, to be available until expended.

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