

Statement Received by Telephone from Mr. Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs

The United Nations Secretariat this morning circulated as official UN document available to all members the report of the World Health Organisation investigation of medical conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which was requested last spring by the Trusteeship Council after a petition was received from the Territory alleging various deficiencies in medical practices. The U. S. supported the proposal for an impartial investigation. The UN document is public and is available to the press.

The U. S. Mission to the UN has issued a press statement in response to the report. We will be prepared with more detailed response when the Trusteeship Council meets, presumably at its next regular session in May, although there is an outside chance that the Soviet Union may seek an earlier meeting.

The Department of the Interior will be seeking legislation to permit a substantial increase in appropriations for the Trust Territory with particular attention to improving medical services. It is also seeking a means by which to improve the training of the native medical personnel upon whose skills the success of the local medical services depends to a considerable degree. State, Defense and Interior will also meet with a view to producing recommendations designed to advance our policies in the Trust Territory.