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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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August 1, 1967

TO: IO - Mr. Sisco
FROM: EA - Mr. Berger *SMB*
SUBJECT: Presidential Commission on TTPI

file TTPI-9

I concur in your draft letters to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives covering the documents calling for a joint resolution of Congress regarding the status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. There is one point in connection with the draft letter from the Department of the Interior to which I wish to call your attention. The penultimate paragraph on page 2 of that draft endorses a "United Nations supervised plebiscite" apparently to take place during or before 1972.

I believe this may be more precise in wording than we need to be. A UN "supervised" plebiscite is not required by either the UN Charter or the Trusteeship Agreement. At the time of plebiscites in other former trusteeship territories, the UN presence has been implemented in a variety of ways. Therefore there is no iron bound precedent that the US is forced to follow. We are dealing with an event five years hence: We cannot now foresee what the attitude of the UN towards our presence in the Pacific might then be.

I suggest that the wording of this very important paragraph might prudently be modified to keep intact the principle of UN involvement in a plebiscite for territory but in a manner less restrictive as to future US actions. Perhaps this wording could be substituted: "in the form of a plebiscite with appropriate UN involvement".

My concurrence in Interior's draft letter and in the Department's transmission of that draft to the Congress is subject to revision of the paragraph in question as suggested above.

EA:RA:RBacon
EA:RA:GHeatley/1kb

SMB

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