



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

August 18, 1967

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EXECUTIVE

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MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. George Christian
Press Secretary
The White House

Re: Possible press conference on Trust Territory status
question (See one page enclosure)

Secretary Udall believes this action would backfire on the President at this stage. Ruth Van Cleve, Director of Office of Territories concurs.

Reasons: (1) While the House committee has given the matter a sympathetic hearing, it is apparent that all members are not in agreement.

(2) With the exception of Senator Jackson, the Senate committee hasn't been acquainted with the proposed legislation.

(3) At this time, it is quite likely that the committee members would feel that unnecessary pressure was being applied and they would get their backs up about being used as stage properties.

(4) The President's signature on the letter, without fanfare, will bring the proposal to fruition easily in the next session.

Charlie

Charles K. Boatner
Assistant to the Secretary
and Director of Information

Enclosure

August 17, 1967

Mr. Secretary:

Our White House contact on the Trust Territory status question (Charles Johnson) reports that the papers have gone forward from Mr. Califano to the President. Charles Johnson reports that you should be alert to the possibility of an early request that you join the President for the press conference at which this matter will be discussed.

In addition, Charles Johnson suggests that State be alerted so that it can have a suitable representative present (foreseen in the role of an observer, rather than an active participant, but participation may occur). I have brought this to the attention of the right person at State (Miss Elisabeth Brown, UNP).

He also suggests that we be prepared to suggest those members of the Congress who should be invited to the press conference as guests. I will confer with Assistant Secretary Anderson and will see that you soon have a suitable list. In the interval, in case you need it before we are in further touch, I would suggest the following:

From the House —

Mr. Aspinall, Interior Committee Chairman
Mr. Carey, Territories Subcommittee Chairman
Mr. Morton, Territories Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member
Mr. Saylor, Interior Committee Ranking Minority Member
Mrs. Hansen, Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman
Mr. Reifel, Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member

From the Senate —

Senator Jackson, Interior Committee Chairman
Senator Burdick, Territories Subcommittee Chairman
Senator Allott, Territories Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member
Senator Bible, member of Interior Committee and Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
Senator Kuchel, Interior Committee Ranking Minority Member and member of Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleave

cc: Secretary Anderson
Charles Johnson
E. Brown
Mrs. Van Cleave