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TO : Amembassy CANBERRA, LONDON, WELLINGTON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD - *Handwritten: Honolulu Jan 3*

FROM : Department of State

DATE: Aug 31 4 52 PM '67

SUBJECT : Future of TTPI

REF : Canberra's 809; State's 26593

On August 21, the White House released publicly President Johnson's letter to the Congress (enclosure 2) giving support for the Joint Resolution (enclosure 3) which the Department had worked out with the Departments of the Interior and Defense to establish a Presidential Commission to study and assess all the factors bearing on the political future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The President also forwarded to the Congress a letter (enclosure 4) he had received from the Secretary of the Interior explaining in detail the Joint Resolution.

In response to requests, particularly from the Australians both in Washington and New York for more information on the President's proposed status commission, Department officers briefed representatives from the Australian, British, and New Zealand Embassies informing them of our reasons for acting at this time as well as our general expectations (enclosure 1). We acknowledged defense considerations but deliberately chose not to dwell on the extent to which these were a motivating factor.

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum of Conversation
2. President's letter to Congress
3. Joint Resolution
4. Letter from Secretary of the Interior to the President

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FORM 10-64 DS-323

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