

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

J. F.
5751
FG999
Cof (Micronesia)

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Tuesday, August 8, 1967

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NU 88-223

By mg NARA. Date 8-15-89

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Joint Resolution on the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific

The Secretary of the Interior, with the strong support of the Departments of State and Defense, recommends that you approve and send to the Congress a message inviting Congressional participation in a Presidential commission to study and recommend on the political future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

filed: EX
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7/21/67

As you know from your recent visit to Guam where you had an opportunity to talk with Commissioner Norwood and some of the representative Micronesian leaders, there is great interest in the Trust Territory in determining the future constitutional and political status of the Territory. Last August the Congress of Micronesia petitioned you to establish a commission to pave the way for an early plebiscite. Since the issuance of NSAM 145, dated April 18, 1962, it has been the policy of the United States Government, although not publicly stated, to work for the retention of the Trust Territory in a permanent political association with the United States; this objective to be achieved through a plebiscite to be followed by termination of the UN Trusteeship.

One of the important factors in this picture is the strong proprietary attitude of the Congressional committees involved, particularly the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The cooperation of these committees is absolutely essential in working out a program for achieving the Government's political objective. Secretary Udall, with the support of the other responsible agencies, recommends using a Presidential commission with Congressional participation as the means of improving the chances of Congressional cooperation in solving the problem of the Trust Territory. Secretary Udall has already made informal soundings with the key Congressional figures and has encountered a favorable reaction to the recommended approach.

I recommend that you approve Secretary Udall's proposal and that you sign the letters to the Congress and to the Congress of Micronesia attached for your signature. I believe that it is in the national security interest of the United States to move early and decisively to tie Trust Territory of

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the Pacific more firmly to the United States and to terminate, if it is politically feasible, the UN Trusteeship through which the United Nations exercises surveillance over our activities in the area. The proposal has also been reviewed by Mr. Califano's office from the standpoint of its impact on related domestic policies and programs. Mr. Califano has prepared a separate memorandum dealing with these aspects. The Bureau of the Budget has also reviewed the proposal from the standpoint of consistency with your overall legislative and budgetary programs and has coordinated the proposal with all affected and responsible agencies.

Walt Rostow

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

See me _____

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