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DRAFT MEMORANDUM

TO : IO - Joseph J. Sisco

FROM : UNP - William H. Gleysteen

SUBJECT: Senate Subcommittee Hearings on the Future Political Status Commission for Micronesia

Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Territories, despite their criticism of U.S. administration of the TTPI, reacted favorably at a hearing on May 8 to the idea of a Status Commission for Micronesia. The Subcommittee heard Senator Mansfield, Under Secretary Katzenbach, Secretary Udall, and Rear Admiral Lemos testify in favor of the Administration's proposal (S.J. 106).

Senator Mansfield, who had introduced a measure of his own (S.J. 96), at the end of his testimony endorsed the Administration's proposal. Throughout his speech, in addition, Mansfield castigated U.S. administration of the TTPI as "not good, to put it mildly" and "most disgraceful." The Subcommittee's questioning of him was deferential.

Secretary Udall testified that, in his seven years as Secretary of the Interior, these had never been legislation of greater moment relating to Interior's territorial responsibilities than S.J. RES 106. In voicing support of this measure he noted that the 1972 plebiscite target date was not too soon and that the S.J. Res 106 Status Commission would work in close co-operation with the Congress of Micronesia

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/M

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Under Secretary Katzenbach ~~stepped~~^{stressed} that a plebiscite must be held, that 1972 was an ideal date, and that the Status Commission envisaged in the Administration's proposal would promote the ~~smooth~~ smoothest possible co-operation between the President and Congress.

Rear Admiral Lemos, the final witness at the public session, in an overly candid speech, outlined our national security interest in a way that can only be described as regrettable. A typical statement from the brief speech: "... our need to further develop U.S. missile capabilities will make the TTPI increasingly valuable to U.S. security interests in the area."

In executive session, the Subcommittee continued to be critical of U.S. administration of the TTPI, particularly the great military expenditure at a time when the TTPI's political status is transitional. Several Senators asked why the TTPI was asking for higher appropriations this year when it had not spent all it had been given in the past.

Under Secretary Katzenbach, who was thoroughly prepared, effectively answered questions about the international aspects of the TTPI. In particular, ^{he} emphasized that a plebiscite is essential in order for the U.S. to honor its treaty with the U.N. "I would hate to think," he said in response to a question expressing some disillusionment with the U.N., "that

the United States would fail to live up to a solemn treaty obligation".

Most of the other questions asked by Subcommittee members dealt with internal administration, and were answered by Secretary Udall or High Commissioner Norwood. In general the Subcommittee, though critical, seemed understanding of the problems involved.

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