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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 9, 1968

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MEMORANDUM

TO: IO - Ward P. Allen
FROM: IO - David H. Popper *WAP*
SUBJECT: Trust Territories

After the staff meeting today Mr. Katzenbach spoke to me for a few minutes about his work in connection with the trust territories problem.

He proposed that we prepare a statement for committee hearings which Congressman Aspinall would be willing to hold on or shortly after July 26. The statement is to be cleared with Interior and Defense and shown to Aspinall in advance. The hearings would presumably be executive, with one of the three Departmental representatives making the statement and the others there to answer questions. Mr. Katzenbach believes Aspinall can get a rule and that there is a prospect for action if Congress returns after the conventions.

In his conversation with Aspinall the Under-Secretary found the Congressman was thinking in terms of only two alternatives -- independence and statehood. The Under-Secretary said this was not correct. He said there was another alternative, some type of self-government which would meet our requirements for getting out from under the United Nations trusteeship handicap. This could take a number of different forms with wide variation on such matters as citizenship. It would be for the new commission to work out the precise terms. Aspinall referred to the

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possibility of amalgamation with Guam or Hawaii. The Under-Secretary said this was not precluded in the future, but that it would be very difficult to sell it to the United Nations at this time.

Mr. Katzenbach also saw Secretary Udall. Udall saw three issues: the gradations involved in a self-government system -- Katzenbach thought a wide variation was possible while meeting the UN requirements; an elected governor, which Katzenbach thought was essential; and the problem of the power of the TTPI legislature to dispose of federal funds contributed by Congress. Katzenbach thinks that this can be worked out by mutual agreement. Congress will certainly want to retain some control over the use of federal money.

I suggest we proceed rapidly to prepare the required statement, check it out in this building, and then get approval from the other Departments. I would like to keep Mr. Katzenbach informed of our progress.

cc: IO/UNP

IO:DHPopper:jmp

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