In reply refer to: I-8748/69 31 July 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER EDWIN KUHN, USN EA & PR/OSD/ISA

SUBJECT: Discussions: July 31, 1969 - Proposed

Joint Resolution for United States Congress

In today's meeting at the Department of Interior concerning the future of Micronesia, discussion centered on a proposed Joint Resolution to be submitted by the Congress of Micronesia to the United States Congress. This draft will ultimately be sent to the Congressional drafting committees to be used by them as a model.

The form to be reviewed, resulting from our discussion today will be made available earlier next week. I proposed a number of changes to the drafts which I will be pleased to discuss with you in detail. However, at this point may I call-attention to the following:

1. The meeting next week will be at 1:30 at the Department of Interior and at that meeting we will be discussing: (a) the final draft of our Committee's Joint Resolution, (b) the Organic Act which we have already received and which has been floated through the interested committees of the United States Congress, (c) the particular interests of the various agencies including that of the Department of Defense, and (d) two letters to be drafted by the Department of Interior and to be addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the Speaker of the Senate (Vice President).

I had suggested that the Department of Defense Congressional or legislative liaison people who will be concerned with convoying these letters through the Congress should also attend the Monday meeting. This suggestion was adopted and at that meeting the legislative liaison people will be split off from our group and asked separately to consider the matters relating to liaison with the United States Congress.

2. Since these matters are now moving rapidly ahead, may I request from you that the appropriate personnel and Departments within the Department of Defense be informed of what is now taking place so that we can have their early comments as to Department of Defense areas of concern.

I have attached copies of the Department of State and Department of Interior drafts of the proposed Joint Resolution but I call attention to the fact that both in my view were defective and that changes were made to fit my comments which I will discuss with you in detail. A consolidated draft, in any event, of the two resolutions meeting with my objection will be made available to you for the Monday meeting, August 4, 1969. I have also attached a copy of the report prepared by the Future Political Status Commission set up by the Congress of Micronesia. This report bears closely on the questions of the proposed "free association of the Territory with the United States." Since we have only one copy, may I have your assistance in preparing a copy for my use.

A number of meetings are envisaged in the near future and since time is running short these may take place almost on a daily basis.

KLC/1sA cc: Mr. Niederlehner

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Master Chron Trust Territory

Att: a/c

Harry H. Almond, Jr. Office of the Assistant General Counsel International Affairs

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^{1.} During the meeting we discussed a possiblity of candidates to advise the Micronesians on their constitutional status. Among the candidates listed the names of Professor Fraund (whom I recommended) and Dean Acheson of the law firm of Covington and Burling, and former Secretary of State, were chosen. Additional names may be added band selected by group consensus.

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JOINT RESOLUTION Welcoming the request of the Congress

of Micronesia that consideration be given to the

future political status of the Trust Territory

of the Pacific Islands

Whereas the United States of America is the administering authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific
Islands under a Trusteeship Agreement with the
Security Council of the United Nations; and

Whereas the Congress of Micronesia, the popularly
elected legislative body of the Trust Territory of
the Pacific Islands, has requested the Congress of
the United States to give consideration to the
future political status of the Trust Territory;
and

Whereas the Congress of Micronesia has endorsed the recommendation of the Micronesian Future Political Status Commission that the most desirable future political status for the Trust Territory would be free association with the United States; and

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Whereas the Secretary of the Interior has invited
the Micronesians to work with the U.S. Government to build a lasting-political partnership
between Micronesia and the United States; and

Whereas the President has extended an invitation to

the people of the Trust Territory to send their representatives to Washington to enter into discussions with representatives of the United States government on the question of the future political status of the Trust Territory: Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress of the United States of America ---

(a) welcomes the request of the Congress of Micronesia that consideration be given to the future political status of the Trust Territory; and

(b) notes with approval the invitation extended by the President to the people of Micronesia to enter into discussions of the Trust Territory's future political status.

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MICRONESIAN PEOPLES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Whereas the Micronesian peoples of the Trust Territory of the Pacific
Islands having, in a Joint Resolution adopted by the Senate and
the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia,
urgently requested the President and the Congress of the United
States to give serious consideration to the future political
status of Micronesia and the ways in which this status should be
finally resolved; and

Whereas the United States of America as the administering authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands by virtue of the Trusteeship Agreement with the Security Council of the United Nations is desirous of discharging its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations by complying with the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement with the Security Council; and

Micronesian peoples their desires that their future political status be decided and that such a decision be reached by the joint efforts of their representatives and those of the United States Government;

Be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States as the President may appoint,

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meet at the earliest practical date, with such representatives of the Micronesian people as may be designated by the Congress of Micronesia for the purpose of jointly giving serious consideration to and mutually evolving a plan whereby the future political status of Micronesia can ultimately and finally be resolved.

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