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OUTLINE OF DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

A. One of the first acts of the Congress of Micronesia after its establishment in 1966 was to pass a resolution asking the U. S. Congress to set up a Political Status Commission to study the future political status of the TTPI. The U. S. Congress did not act on this resolution, and in the following year, 1967, the Congress of Micronesia established its own Future Political Status Commission. In August of that year, President Johnson sent to the U. S. Congress a joint resolution "Regarding the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands" that proposed the establishment of a joint Executive/Legislative Political Status Commission. The Senate approved the bill in 1968, but it has never been acted on by the House of Representatives.

B. The Micronesian Future Political Status Commission undertook a study of the possible forms of government, and after two years of study, presented its findings in July 1969. It recommended:

- that the TTPI be constituted as an internally self-governing state -- with Micronesian control of all its branches including the executive -- in free association with the U.S.; or, that failing,
- that the TTPI seek independence.

C. Thereupon the Congress of Micronesia

- took note of, but neither approved nor disapproved, the recommendation of the Political Status Commission.
- selected a delegation to visit Washington to discuss the future status. The delegation was essentially a fact-finding group which was to report back to the Congress of Micronesia, but

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was not empowered to make binding agreements with the U. S. delegation (headed by Interior Assistant Secretary Harrison Loesch).

D. The Micronesian delegation

- came to Washington in October 1969 and was here for two and a half weeks. During that period the two delegations held a number of meetings. Both sides agreed to keep the discussion private for the time being. As a result, the discussions have not been made public. However, it can be stated that the talks were fragmented and no conclusions were reached on the future status of the TTPI.

E. Subsequent Developments:

- Assistant Secretary Loesch visited the TTPI in January 1970. While there he held further informal discussions with the Micronesians and made plans for another meeting between the two delegations presumably in the near future.

F. Other Relevant Matters:

1. Secretary Hickel, when he visited the TTPI in May, 1969, announced a broad program of action to develop the Territory politically and economically. Among the steps that he announced were:

- plans to bring more Micronesians into high-ranking and responsible positions in the TTPI Government, and to eliminate differences in pay schedules between Micronesian and U. S. employees of the TTPIG;
- plans to propose legislation to give Micronesian products the same preferential, duty-free status afforded products of U. S. territories, and legislation to remove travel restrictions between Micronesia and the U. S.;

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- the encouragement of capital investment to develop tourism, fishing, agriculture, and import/export trade;
- the improvement of public works facilities, including communications, roads, harbors, airfields, water and sanitation facilities and electric power;
- the expansion and upgrading of facilities and personnel in the fields of health and education.

2. Among the steps the U. S. Government took in 1969 to assist the TTPI in its development:

- the budgetary grant for FY 1970 was \$49 million, compared to \$30 million in FY 1969. A further increase is expected in 1971;
- the U. S. and Japan joined in an ex gratia agreement to contribute \$5 million each to inhabitants of the TTPI for payment of claims arising from WWII suffering;
- the U. S. is considering "post-secure" war damage claims of approximately \$18 million;
- began a modern communications system that will link the six districts of the territory and Guam when it is completed in September 1970;
- airport construction has been completed to the point where Air Micronesia can now operate Boeing 727 or DC-6 aircraft into every district center;
- the Micronesian Occupational Center was opened and will have, when completed, an enrollment of more than 300 students representing all six districts.

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3. The U. S. told the UN Trusteeship Council in its 1969 meeting that, with regard to the future of the TTPI

- we are still dedicated to allowing an exercise in self-determination in the near future;
- we are preparing to devise a new status involving a lasting political partnership between Micronesia and the U. S., consistent with the wishes of the Micronesian people.

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