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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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April 4, 1969

TO : IO - Mr. DePalma

FROM : EA - Winthrop G. Brown <sup>WGB</sup>

SUBJECT : Comments on the Draft Memorandum to the President on the Future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

1. It would be useful if we spelled out the "deteriorating situation" referred to in the draft. We suggest the insertion, in the second sentence after the word "deterioration," of the phrase "in terms of our objective of bringing the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands into permanent association with the United States."

2. I understand that point (b) in the second paragraph of the draft memorandum was mentioned at the Under Secretaries meeting. EA would prefer that this be eliminated. We have reservations about the value of the Trust Territory as a bargaining point in negotiations with Japan concerning Okinawa. The Japanese are more likely to argue that availability of the Trust Territory as an alternate site reduces the importance of our bases on Okinawa.

3. The discussion at the Subcommittee meeting indicated a need for us to clarify the role of the Special Representative. It was reported that the Under Secretaries Committee saw the Representative as a replacement for the previously proposed Status Commission. His responsibilities would be to devise a formula for the new status of the TTPI and to ensure that this was acceptable to Congress and to the Micronesians. If, as the proposed memorandum to the President states, it is necessary to forward a program on May 1, I do not see how there is time to choose a Special Representative and get him appointed and even on the job by May 1, much less enable him to study the problem and make any considered recommendations.

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4. The term "representative" suggests the position could involve visits to the Trust Territory and meetings with the Micronesian leaders. If this were to be the case, we fear the Micronesians might see the Special Representative as an alternate channel to the High Commissioner and seek to play one against the other to the disadvantage of the USG.

5. In discussions during the Subcommittee meeting it was indicated that the Special Representative could be an "expediter, a facilitator, and a coordinator." The Draft Memorandum for the President suggests, however, that he have broader responsibilities relating to Executive Branch coordination and the improvement of the Territorial administration. We think there is a need to spell out the type of coordination which might be required among the agencies concerned and to make clear what their continuing responsibilities would be in the Trust Territory and in relation to the role of the Special Representative.

Clearance: EA/J - Mr. Kinney

ccs: INT - Mr. Farrington  
DOD - Cdr. Kuhn  
NSC - Mr. Grant

EA/ANZ:RRBlackburn:ms:i11 x 4681

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