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TO: U - Mr. Richardson
THRU: S/S
FROM: EA - Winthrop G. Brown
SUBJECT: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
- ACTION MEMORANDUM

We recognize that from the point of view of our posture and relations with the UN it would be desirable to include a clear option of independence in the choices we offer to the Micronesians. There are, however, other important US interests involved.

We feel that Option C (choice of remaining in trust territory status vs. association with the United States as a self-governing territory) in the paper prepared for the Under Secretaries Group is the course which would come the closest to reconciling our strategic interests, legal requirements, congressional opinion, and indeed the interests of the Micronesians themselves. They would have a hard time making a go of independence.

We are fortified in this view by the agreement of all agencies concerned in paragraph four of International, Legal and Foreign Policy Considerations under Suboption C of the "Analysis of Options" section of the paper which states: "Self-government is a U.N. accepted status terminating U.N. 'surveillance' over non-self-governing territories. Leaving aside those U.N. members who have a doctrinaire definition of self-government as nothing less than national independence, the United States would be able to present a plausible case that the new status is in accord with the wishes of a majority of the Micronesians."

It should be pointed out that Option C rather than Option A which includes the clear choice of independence would be

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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consistent with the growing feeling in the U.N. that it is time to do something to curb or shut off the increasing flow of mini-states into the U.N. We have recently gone so far as to intimate that we might even be prepared to use a veto in cases of this kind.

Option C would also be consistent with National Security Action Memorandum No. 145 of April 18, 1962, signed by President Kennedy, which set as the United States long-term objective "developing the trust territory as a viable territory permanently associated with the U.S. and enjoying a standard of living consistent with such association." So far as we know, this decision has not been altered.

All of the agencies concerned agree that Option A would probably not be acceptable to Congress, and it would cause us to run a "grave risk" in meeting our strategic requirement that the trust territory remain in some form of continued association with the United States.

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