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CONFIDENTIAL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington, D.C. 20520

9038

June 10, 1969

TO : The Under Secretary

THROUGH: S/S *ms*

FROM : IO - Samuel De Palma *SP*

SUBJECT: Aspinall Plan for Introducing an Organic Act
for the TTPI - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

We have learned informally of a conversation between High Commissioner Johnston and Congressman Aspinall which, if accurately reported, underscores the difficulties we can expect from some quarters of Congress regarding the TTPI's future status. Aspinall reportedly told Johnston that he wants, by June 20, a draft organic act for the TTPI explaining that he wishes to introduce such legislation in the House during July. When the High Commissioner mentioned consultations with the Micronesians, Aspinall dismissed this process as the last thing he wants.

Although Secretary Hickel would like to be in a position to hand the Micronesians a draft organic act when they come to Washington, he envisages some discussion and negotiation with them. Skipping this step--as apparently contemplated by Aspinall--would be certain to antagonize the Micronesians who already fear that they will not be meaningfully consulted about the nature of their future status.

We do not know what the High Commissioner has said to Secretary Hickel about the Congressman's request but I think it would be quite appropriate for you to raise the matter with Johnston if we can arrange for him to call on you after he finishes his duties at the Trusteeship Council. Moreover, either before or after a meeting with Johnston I would like to talk to you further about organizing a steering group which could monitor all aspects of the status question. I am disturbed by the rather haphazard arrangements by which we are being kept informed at the present time.

MICROFILMED
BY S/S: CMS *ms* /UNP:NFriskie:WGleysteen:gs
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