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June 13, 1969

TO: The Under Secretary  
THROUGH: S/S *KPW*  
FROM: IO - Samuel De Palma *SP*  
SUBJECT: Your Meeting with High Commissioner Johnston,  
Monday, June 16, 12 noon - BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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BACKGROUND:

You are meeting at noon on Monday with Edward E. Johnston, the new High Commissioner for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. (A biographic sketch is attached.) Mr. Johnston has just returned from New York where he served as Special Representative on the United States Delegation to the 36th Session of the UN Trusteeship Council. Our delegation was headed by Ambassador Christopher Phillips.

TALKING POINTS:

You may wish to raise the following points during the discussion:

- a. What are the Commissioner's impressions of the Trusteeship Council session? In this connection, you might mention that you have received most favorable reports concerning his performance as Special Representative, both for the way in which he fielded questions and for the impressive knowledge he displayed of the Trust Territory despite his relatively brief tenure.
- b. What is the High Commissioner's assessment of present political sentiment in the Trust Territory, especially as it concerns future status? You will recall that the Congress of Micronesia Status Commission released a preliminary report recommending self-government in free association with the United States as its first choice, and independence as second.

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- c. What sort of timetable does the High Commissioner envisage for consultations and a plebiscite? You have heard that the High Commissioner and his staff have reported some apprehension among Micronesian leaders that they will be handed a new status without meaningful consultation.
- d. Can the High Commissioner confirm reports we have received that Congressman Aspinall wishes to introduce a draft organic act for the TTPI in the House during July? This would be certain to antagonize the Micronesians, whose apprehensions are mentioned above. What can we do to forestall such action? At a minimum Aspinall should be told that the Administration would have to dissociate itself from such a high-handed "short-cut" procedure.

Concurrence:

IO/UNP - Mr. Gleysteen *g*)

Attachment:

Biographic sketch

IO/UNP: NHFr<sup>14</sup>isbie:jw 6/13/69  
Ext. 2115

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Edward E. Johnston

### Johnston Nominated High Commissioner

Edward E. Johnston has been nominated by President Richard M. Nixon to become High Commissioner of the Trust Territory. Johnston, who has lived in Hawaii for the past 22 years, is a successful business and government executive who served as Secretary of Hawaii (Lieutenant Governor) in 1958-59, and was Acting Governor when the Statehood Bill was in its final stages of passage. He served as chairman of the Hawaii State Board of Economic Development from 1960 to 1963. The 51 year old insurance executive first gained political prominence in 1955 when he was elected chairman of the Honolulu County Republican Committee. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in 1960 and 1963, and was an alternate in 1964. For the past four years he has been Hawaii State Chairman of the Republican Party.

A graduate of Illinois College where he earned a Phi Beta Kappa honor society key, Johnston John-

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High Commissioner Johnston

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ed the Air Force as a private in 1942 and rose to the rank of Captain by 1948. Recalled to duty for the Korean War, he left military service as a Major in 1952. His career in the Hawaii insurance industry started in 1948. In 1960 he became president and general manager of 50th State Insurance Associates, Inc. When this firm was merged with Hawaiian Insurance and Guaranty, Ltd. in 1966, he became vice-president of the enlarged firm.

In addition to his political and business activities, Johnston has engaged in numerous civic affairs, including service as president and director of the crippled children's fund raising Easter Seal Society, president of the Hawaii Chapter of Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriters, member of the Waialae Iki Community Association and the Central YMCA, and honorary member of the Ala Moana Kiwanis Club.

Johnston and his wife, Clare, are parents of two daughters, Janice, 16, and Karen, 13.

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