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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

MEMORANDUM

June 13, 1969

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Subject: Trust Territory

1. We have set up a meeting with High Commissioner Johnston and Public Affairs Commissioner Craley for Monday noon to review:

- a) the recent Trusteeship Council discussion;
- b) the High Commissioner's assessment of the political situation, and feasibility of the Hickel scenario on political status.

2. Hickel's staff (Edgar Kaiser) assures me that Aspinall's proposal for unilateral preparation of an Organic Act is not acceptable to the Secretary (see TAB 1). Mr. Hickel has committed himself to the Micronesians, both publicly and privately, in favor of genuine discussions in the proposed Washington talks this fall.

3. To the best of my knowledge, there has been no significant work in Interior on the Territory's future status since Secretary Hickel's return. Interior staff has been preoccupied with setting in motion the action program. The Survey Team has now departed, and Interior's attention presumably will turn toward this problem. We

DECLASSIFIED

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DECLASSIFIED

- 2 -

have been promised activation of the Interagency Coordinating Group, to be chaired by Assistant Secretary Lesh (Land Management and Territories), but staff thinking in Interior on a work program for this group remains vague.

4. My own thought would be that a small working group of two or three lawyers be constituted under the Coordinating Committee to prepare an outline of an Organic Act and a check list of key issues. Perhaps it would be desirable for you to call on Secretary Hickel personally, to discuss with him the importance we attach to this work and our desire to cooperate fully with Interior on this matter.

P. W. R.
CWR

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