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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Under Secretary

**THROUGH:** S/S

**FROM:** EA - Marshall Green

**SUBJECT:** Advisory Panel for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands --- ACTION MEMORANDUM

1. As the program for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands develops, beginning late this summer (probably in August) with consultations with the Micronesians, we can expect increased interest on the part of individuals in the U. S., other governments such as Australia and New Zealand which are geographically concerned, and other members of the U.N. Much of this interest will be fueled by the press which has already carried a number of exaggerated and misleading newspaper articles. These will increase, particularly when the terms of the Organic Act become known.

2. An addition to the program which would help the Department -- and I hope the Department of the Interior -- in a public relations sense would be the formation of an Advisory Panel of private experts on Micronesia to meet with Administration officials. In the past the use of such advisory panels for the various geographic areas has been favorably noted by the press, although their discussions generally were not made public. Panelists would also be useful to the USG in developing its program for the TTPI, as specialized sources of detailed information on Micronesia and of advice on how most effectively to deal with the Micronesians.

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3. I propose that such a panel be selected soon to meet with Administration officials prior to the meetings with the Micronesians. The panelists would be informed frankly of the Administration's program and would be asked to discuss both the substance of the program and the best methods of dealing with the Micronesians.

4. I believe that creation of the Panel would:

A. Receive favorable public notice within the U. S. This would be useful to us at the U. N.

B. Be well received by the Micronesians, particularly if the panelists were considered by them to be knowledgeable about and interested in Micronesia.

C. Permit the Department to cross-check any scenario planned by Interior for the consultations with the Micronesians.

5. The latter point is particularly important. I have received the impression that neither the Department of the Interior nor the Department of Defense is attuned to political nuances within the territory, and I think it important that we try to ensure that the Micronesians feel there is genuine consultation with them.

6. Our experience with other advisory panels shows that a panel of 6-8 persons would be the most appropriate size. For my part, I would like to nominate the following:

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7. We should offer to share the costs of the panel -- transportation to Washington and consultants fees for two-day meetings on each occasion.

Recommendation:

That you call Under Secretary Train and suggest the formation of an Advisory Panel to the Under Secretaries Group and its working level sub-groups. If Under Secretary Train agrees, he may wish to clear the suggestion with the appropriate Congressional leaders.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

EA/ANZ:RRBlackburn:rlw 6/17/69

Concurrences:

EA/ANZ - Mr. Moore

IO/UNP - Mr. DePalma

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