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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : EA - Mr. Marshall Green

DATE: August 27, 1969

FROM : EA/ANZ - Robert W. Moore

RM

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SUBJECT: Briefing for Australian, British and New Zealand Embassies on the forthcoming Consultations with the Micronesians — ACTION MEMORANDUM

1. Representatives of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands will be arriving in Washington Monday, September 1, to begin consultations with the Executive Branch on the legislation intended to lead to permanent association of the TTPI with the U. S. and termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. I believe we should brief fully the Australian, British, and New Zealand Embassies on the substance and timing of our plans for the TTPI preferably before the Micronesians arrive for the following reasons:

A. Following the Pacific Islands talks at the Deputy Assistant Secretary level in 1967, the four governments agreed to keep each other informed on a confidential basis on policies and developments in each of their territories. We have been doing so at regular intervals, usually through our Embassy in Canberra, and I believe we have a clear obligation to do so on such a major issue.

B. The general outline of the terms we are proposing to the Micronesians will almost certainly become known soon to the press. Interested governments should be given an accurate picture before speculative or incomplete stories appear.

C. The Micronesians' constitutional advisor, who we understand will be coming with them, is a professor from the Australian National University; details will probably leak through him as well as the press.

D. What we do in the TTPI is of practical interest to Australia, New Zealand and the U. K., since they, too, have island territories. In establishing policies regarding those territories, these three countries naturally wish to take into account our policy towards the TTPI, and I believe it is in our interest that they do so.

2. My level of IO does not agree that there is a need to brief these governments. IO believes that we should not reveal our plans because at present they would be unacceptable to New Zealand and Australia inasmuch as full "self-government" is not being offered. (IO is reserving its position on the present draft for the Under Secretaries consideration which offers an elective governor by 1981.) I do not agree with this assessment. The Australians and New Zealanders may have some reservations about the propriety of what we propose to do, but I think they will accept it and I think it will be helpful if we give them an opportunity to collect their thoughts and prepare their positions in advance.

REVIEWED BY B.H.B.M.S. DATE 3/25/87

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3. ANZ believes the briefing should encompass:

A. The timetable for the legislation, referendum and termination of trusteeship as now projected.

B. The main points of the political status act as presently proposed.

C. Candor as to the possibility that Micronesian or Congressional views may cause revisions in our plans.

Recommendation: That you call Mr. DePalma and ask for a briefing of officers of the Australian, British and New Zealand Embassies along the above lines.

EA/ANZ:RWMoore:nmm

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