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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 9, 1969

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NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

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To : The Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Under Secretary of Interior
The Deputy Attorney General of Justice
The Director of the Bureau of the Budget

Subject : Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

At its meeting on August 28, the Under Secretaries Committee reviewed the draft Political Status Act for Micronesia. Except for the section on the chief executive, it approved the draft as the United States negotiating position for the forthcoming talks with a Micronesian delegation.

As regards the treatment of the chief executive in the draft act, the Department of State noted that an elected chief executive was an essential attribute of self-government, which, in the absence of the already discarded independence option, would provide the only legal basis for termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. Other agencies noted some of the Congressional difficulties in offering an elected executive immediately. The Committee also took note of the political and legal risks inherent in a situation where we would terminate the Trusteeship Agreement on the basis of less than fullest possible compliance with the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement, providing a basis for attack on the legality of such termination.

The Committee agreed that the Administration should seek consultations with Chairman Aspinall on

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the need for an elected chief executive. To that end, a delegation led by Interior and with the participation of State should discuss this issue with the Chairman after we have, in the forthcoming talks, ascertained Micronesian thinking on this matter. However, in view of the legal requirements, the approach to the Chairman would not be contingent upon the Micronesian position with respect to an elected chief executive.



Elliot L. Richardson
Chairman

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