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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 9, 1970

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MEMORANDUM

TO: EA - Mr. Marshall Green
FROM: EA/ANZ - Robert W. Moore
SUBJECT: Micronesia: Your Conversation with
Congressman Mailliard
-- BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

THE PRESENT SITUATION

When Assistant Secretary of the Interior Loesch visited Micronesia in January, he left with the Political Status Commission copies of the U.S.-prepared Political Status Act (formerly called the Organic Act). Loesch has asked the Commission members for their views on this act and has told them that the U. S. cannot set a date for the next round of negotiations until these views are received. (The U. S. hopes to elicit thus from the Micronesians a clear statement of what they have in mind for their political status.) It is assumed that the next round of negotiations will take place during the latter half of March.

Important features of the Political Status Act (which is classified Administratively Restrictive and has not been made public) are:

Status: The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) will be associated with the United States as a self-governing, unincorporated territory of the U. S., to be known as Micronesia;

Rights: Micronesians shall be citizens of the U. S. The Act provides a Bill of Rights;

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REVIEWED BY <u>B.H. BAAS</u> DATE <u>2/11/87</u>
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Executive: Until the first Monday in January 1981, the Governor of Micronesia shall be appointed by the President. After that date, he shall be elected by the people of the territory.

Legislative Branch: The legislative authority of Micronesia shall be vested in the bi-cameral Congress of Micronesia, whose members shall be elected by direct vote;

Judicial Branch: The judicial authority shall be vested in a Supreme Court of Micronesia, in an island court for each of the six districts, and in such other courts as may be established by the Congress of Micronesia;

Lands: Under the Act, if the U. S. wishes to acquire an interest in any land, it will present a description of that land to the Governor who will, in turn, submit a bill to the Congress of Micronesia, containing a description of the land, the nature of the interest, a justification of the need for the land, and an appraisal of the fair market value of the land. If the Congress approves the bill, it shall become law. If the Congress fails to act on the bill or disagrees with the need for the acquisition of the land by the U. S., then the U. S. may take an appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, whose decision shall be final.

UN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

The U. S. Trust Territory is a strategic trust under the Security Council. However, the Security Council has asked the Trusteeship Council to perform the required functions relating to political, economic, social and educational questions. The U. S. is one of the six nations that make up the Trusteeship Council (the others are Australia, China, France, the USSR, and the UK). In late 1969 President Nixon appointed as our member on the Council S. Harry Wright (a government consultant and Consul in Algiers during the Eisenhower

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Administration). Prior to Ambassador Wright's appointment, the post was filled concurrently by Ambassador Phillips who took over when Ambassador Eugenie Anderson resigned.

The Council sends a visiting team to the TTPI every three years. One is there now, and will be there until the middle of March. It is headed by an Australian.

The Trusteeship Council is almost out of business. Only two trust territories remain, the TTPI and the Trust Territory of New Guinea, administered by Australia. Also interested in the Pacific Trust Territory is the Committee of 24 (the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples).

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Concurrence:

EA/RA - Miss McNutt *Handwritten initials*

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