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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AR

REVIEWED BY B.H. BAAS DATE 3/25/87

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September 26, 1973

TO: S/IG - Mr. Thomas W. McElhiney
FROM: L/EA - O. Thomas Johnson
SUBJECT: COR Inspection Concerning EA/ANP - Fiji,
New Zealand, Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands

There are no major problems or issues related to the conduct of our relations with Fiji or New Zealand which currently involve this office. However, this office is heavily involved in the negotiations now in progress with Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status (JCFS) and the Marianas Political Status Commission (MPSC) regarding the future political status of the Trust Territory. In the Marianas talks both sides share the goal of establishing a close and permanent political relationship between the United States and the Mariana Islands. Negotiations with the JCFS appear to be headed towards the establishment of a "free association" relationship between Micronesia and the United States. (We have been negotiating separately with representatives of the Marianas District of the Trust Territory since last year.)

The key issues facing us in the talks with the JCFS are: (1) whether to offer the people of Micronesia a choice between "free association" and independence; and (2) the length of time during which our defense arrangements with Micronesia will remain in effect. The principal issues facing us in the Marianas talks are: (1) the areas in which the future government of the Marianas will have exclusive competence; (2) the extent of future federal economic assistance to the Marianas; and (3) the terms under which the United States will be allowed to build a combined military facility on the island of Tinian.

I will be happy to discuss any of these matters further with an inspector. In my absence Mr. Ronald Stowe of this office should be contacted.

In addition to Mr. Stowe and myself, Mr. Andre Surena

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(L/UNA) devotes a substantial portion of his time to matters involving the Trust Territory.

L/EA/OTJohnson/cbf
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