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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

March 16, 1976

In reply refer to:  
I-21120/76

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Micronesian Political Status Negotiations (U)

*Relates to:*

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*498/472 (16 Mar 76)*

(S) On 28 January 1976, the IISC Under Secretaries Committee was requested to undertake a review of U.S. policy toward the future status of Micronesia (less the Northern Marianas), including instructions to the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations. This study has progressed to the point where the following issues and questions require consideration by the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

- Previous instructions authorized the President's Personal Representative to make an independence offer to the Micronesians anytime he considered it advisable. The draft Constitution produced by the Congress of Micronesia during the last half of CY 1975 strongly emphasizes Micronesian sovereignty and the apparent desire to establish a treaty relationship with the United States. Can any treaty relationship, in lieu of the Compact of Free Association, be accepted by the United States Government without undue risk to our national security interests in Micronesia?

- Assuming that it is desirable, from a defense perspective, to maintain full U.S. authority over all matters related to the foreign affairs and defense of Micronesia, the patrol of territorial waters and fishing zones in Micronesia is likely to be a U.S. responsibility. Given an expanded 200 mile fishing zone, can the Military Services perform this patrol mission satisfactorily with assets currently available to PACOM?

- At present, the Guam Search and Rescue (SAR) Sector includes most of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In June 1974, CINCPAC directed that CINCPACFLT coordinate with COMCGD 14 to ensure a transfer of Guam SAR Sector responsibilities to the U.S. Coast Guard on an orderly, time-phased basis. What progress is being made in these discussions and when can DOD expect to be relieved of these civil SAR responsibilities by the U.S. Coast Guard?

(U) I would like to receive your response to the foregoing questions by 1 April 1976.

*Harry Bergold*

Harry E. Bergold  
Acting Assistant Secretary

Classified by ASD/ISA  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED  
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 84

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