



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

February 3, 1977

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Memorandum

To: Acting Associate Solicitor
Division of General Law

From: Assistant Solicitor, Territories
Division of General Law

Subject: Decision Making - November 1976 through April 1977

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I. DECISIONS OR ACTIONS DURING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1976 THROUGH
JANUARY 1977

1. Puerto Rico Statehood - Department of Interior is assigned the responsibility for drafting Puerto Rico's Statehood Bill. The Solicitor's Office provided a series of drafts of a Statehood proposal to the White House. The White House then sent a bill to the Congress on January 19, 1977. The bill is composed of two parts: the first establishes the Commission to develop a report that will advise the people of Puerto Rico as to all the implications for them of Statehood; part two establishes the procedures whereby Puerto Rico could become a State if the people so wished.

2. Virgin Islands Loan Guarantee - The Secretary (Andrus) signed a guarantee for a \$22 million bond for public works construction in the Virgin Islands. The Federal Financing Bank then advanced the funds to the Government of the Virgin Islands.

II. DECISIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE SECRETARY BETWEEN NOW
AND THE END OF APRIL 1977


1. Palau Super Port - Although no decisions or actions have been taken in connection with the Palau Super Port other than for the Trust Territory Government to enter into a contract with a Japanese concern to do a feasibility study, this matter is environmentally controversial and has attracted a great deal of "hostile" interest in the project from leading environmental groups, headed primarily by the National Resources Defense Council. It is anticipated that there may be a lawsuit against the Department on this project, particularly if a decision was made to proceed with it, but it is impossible to project a time frame.



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2. Guam Power Authority Loan Guarantee - The Secretary has been given the authority to guarantee a \$36 million loan to the Guam Power Authority from the Federal Financing Bank. The currently available data to support an action by the Secretary in this respect is inadequate. Additional data is to be supplied and/or gathered by the end of March 1977 and the Secretary will be expected to make a decision as to which will be the best course of action for him in helping the Guam Power Authority to regain its financial feet.

3. Elected Governor of American Samoa - The Samoan people voted by a substantial majority in August of 1976 to have their own elected governor. A Samoa Gubernatorial Commission has been established whose mission is to develop the details and plans for an elected governor in American Samoa. A report from the Commission is currently scheduled to be due on April 1, 1977 and the Secretary will be expected to make a decision as to how best to proceed to have an elected governor in Samoa. The current schedule calls for elections in November of 1977.


C. Brewster Chapman, Jr.

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