

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : ~~OP-215~~ *File*

DATE: 22 July 1953

FROM : OP-215B

SUBJECT: HR 5381, Proposed Organic Act for the Trust Territory

1. Prior to a previously scheduled meeting of the House Subcommittee on Territory and Possessions, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Honorable John P. Saylor, Subcommittee Chairman met informally with:

State Department Representatives:	W. I. Cargo
	J. R. Fowler
Defense Department "	: LCDR C. E. Herrick, OP-215, Navy Department
Interior Department "	: W. C. Strand, Director, Office of Territories
	A. M. Edwards, General Counsel, Office of Territories

2. Mr. Saylor raised the question of the feasibility of holding a public hearing on HR 5381 in view of the fact that the Executive Department (State, Defense, Interior) rather than having a consolidated position, had instead a divergence of opinion which on the surface reflected a conflict in position. He suggested that rather than air the Executive Department differences in a public hearing, he would recommend cancellation of the hearing on HR 5381 scheduled for this date. This suggestion was concurred in by the representatives present from State, Defense and Interior. Mr. Saylor then announced that the hearing would be postponed indefinitely.

3. Mr. Strand subsequently announced that Orme Lewis, Assistant Secretary of Interior had planned to bring HR 5381 up for discussion at an early date before the Pacific Island Coordinating Group consisting of representatives from State, Defense and Interior. It was his hope that a substitute Bill might be drafted by this Group prior to its re-introduction in Congress which would reflect the coordinated views of these Departments. Mr. Saylor indicated his general approval of this objective.

4. As a means of assisting both the Senate and House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in their review of legislation pertaining to an Organic Act for the Trust Territory of the Pacific, Mr. Saylor stated that members of the respective committees should visit the area covered by the proposed legislation. In this connection he suggested that a letter to the Chairman of the Senate and House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee from each of the Secretaries (State, Defense and Interior) relative to such a trip would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



C. E. HERRICK

↓
 sec. Congress
 AL Miller
 23 July 53