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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum

To: L/UNA - Mr. van Heuven
L/E - Mr. Duvall
L/FE - Mrs. Lincoln
FE - Miss McNutt
NA - Mr. Little
INTERIOR - Mr. Yeomans
NAVY - Commander Miller

June 9, 1959.

From: ODA - Nicholas Feld 33

Subject: War Damage Claims in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

As a follow-up to our meeting of June 4, there is attached a copy of a Reuters release from Tokyo, dated May 23, concerning Japanese responsibility for war damage claims in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

You may wish to consider the text of this release, transmitted to us by USUN, before the next meeting on June 15, 1959.

Attachment:

May 23rd Reuters Release

IO:ODA:ECDF:is:coll:dms

John H. ...

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"TOKYO, May 23 (Reuters)

"The Japanese Foreign Ministry said today Japan might have a "Moral Obligation" but no legal obligation to meet claims for wartime losses by the inhabitants of Pacific Islands formerly administered by Japan.

"The Foreign Ministry was commenting on a report submitted this week to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) by a * United Nations Mission on the ~~new~~ U. S.-administered Pacific Islands Trust Territory.

"The Mission's report said the matter of claims by the Islanders for losses suffered during World War II was still unsettled and required urgent consideration.

"The Foreign Ministry said financial claims by the Islanders under Article 4 of the San Francisco Peace Treaty would be cancelled out by assets left behind by the Japanese.

"Concerning possible claims under Article 14 of the Treaty (covering damage and loss) the Islanders at the time had the same status as the Japanese themselves during the War and therefore would have no legal claim for reparation, the Ministry said."

* Note: The Report was, in fact, submitted to the Trusteeship Council.