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18 APR 1962

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS)****Subj: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (u)**

This is in response to your memorandum of 17 March 1962 (1-4210/62) in which you requested the views of the Department of the Navy regarding the possibility of providing logistic support for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

It is the view of the Navy Department that the logistic difficulties which the Department of the Interior has experienced in the management of the Trust Territory, result primarily from lack of sufficient funds. Further, we feel that a transfer of responsibility for the logistic job to the Department of Defense will not necessarily insure that it will be accomplished more effectively. Of greater concern than the problems of funding is the diversion of military effort to a task which does not support directly the primary mission of the Navy. The Navy's logistic resources are fully committed in support of world-wide military operations which are continuing to expand because of the unstable international situation in Berlin, Southeast Asia, Cuba, and more recently, Latin America; and, it cannot be anticipated that the over-all situation will improve in the foreseeable future. Therefore, it is essential that the Navy's logistic forces be immediately available to respond to military requirements world-wide. Any further commitments to direct non-military requirements, such as logistic responsibility for the Trust Territory, would require an inordinate diversion of Navy logistic support, and thus would not be acceptable from a military point of view.

While the Navy stands ready to assist the Department of the Interior in carrying out the administrative responsibilities for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in every way feasible, we should not undertake the logistic responsibilities envisaged in the basic correspondence. In connection with transportation requirements, it is suggested that consideration be given to meeting these through MSTs

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and MATS on a reimbursable basis.

The Navy Department will be in a position to comment on the details relative to budget, funding, and other pertinent factors when finite requirements are provided by the Department of the Interior.

Kenneth E. Belieu  
Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
(Installations and Logistics)

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