

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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April 17, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE PRESIDENT

Proposed Task Force on the Pacific Trust Territory

1. Attached is a proposed NSAM for your approval. It does two things: (a) formulation of a new policy with respect to the Trust Territories and (b) provides for a Task Force with White House membership to assist the Department of the Interior in taking the steps necessary to put the policy into effect. The substance of the NSAM has been cleared with the Departments of State, Interior, Defense and HEW.
2. The proposed new policy sets as a goal the permanent association of the Trust Territories with the U.S. at the end of the trusteeship period, rather than independence.
3. We are once again faced with the necessity of reporting to the UN on the trusteeship. As you are no doubt aware, we have been increasingly criticized for not having adequately performed our obligation to prepare the people of the Territory for self government or independence. According to the report of the UN Visiting Mission in July of 1961, we have fallen particularly short in the areas of education and economic development.
4. The Departments of Interior, State and Defense have recently started preparing on somewhat of a "crash" basis for hearings before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs this week, where a request is pending to raise or remove the budget ceilings of \$7,500,000 on annual appropriations. The prospects for favorable action are good.
5. Much remains to be done, however, on the formulation of a detailed program of educational and economic development for the future. The material justifying the raising of the budget ceiling being submitted to the House Committee is rather sketchy and incomplete. It seems clear that more effort will be required to do a proper job both before the Congress and the UN. It also seems likely that considerably

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more study and planning will be necessary if a long-term program is to be developed which will carry us through the next few years.

6. In order to put some steam into the effort, we have also thought it useful to create a temporary task force, whose main purpose would be to get the appropriate agencies of the Government to work more actively with the Department of the Interior to develop a longer range program for implementing the policy.

Carl Hayden

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