

NSAM-63

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ November 4, 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE PRESIDENT

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

The following are attached for your consideration:

1. A proposed letter from you to Tony Solomon thanking him for his Report on the Trust Territory.
2. A proposed letter from you to Secretary Udall implementing the recommendation in the Report that authority over the U. S. High Commissioner be placed squarely with the Secretary of the Interior.
3. A report on the outbreak of polio in the Marshall Islands in January of this year.

You may recall that one of Solomon's recommendations was that the Peace Corps be invited to participate in the new program for the Trust Territory. You may wish to call Sarge Shriver, encouraging him to give favorable consideration to the Department of Interior's suggestions, or, alternatively I could call him myself to tell him that you favor getting the Peace Corps into the area.

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
Stat. & WH Guidelines
By: <u>pink</u> NARA, Date: <u>12/13/94</u>

Polly Yates

November 4, 1963

**Dear Mr. Solomon:**

**I have received your Report by the U. S. Government Survey Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It is a fine job and I deeply appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues in doing a thorough study of this area, which is of such importance to the United States.**

**I am sure that the Government will be calling on you for other services; and I hope that when this happens, you will be able to respond as promptly and as effectively as you have this time.**

**Sincerely,**

**Mr. Anthony Solomon  
3316 Volta Place, N. W.  
Washington 7, D. C.**

**Dear Secretary Udall:**

**In view of the full authority and responsibility I have delegated to you to administer the affairs of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I am in agreement with the recent recommendations of the Survey Mission to the Trust Territory contained in their October 9, 1963 report that your authority should extend without question over the U. S. High Commissioner of the Trust Territory.**

**Therefore, in the future I will expect the Secretary of the Interior to exercise full control over the appointment, direction and removal of such U. S. High Commissioners.**

**Sincerely,**

**The Honorable Stewart L. Udall  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.**

## Report on Poliomyelitis in the Trust Territory (1953-1963)

On January 21, 1953 an outbreak of poliomyelitis was reported at the Majuro Intermediate School in the Marshall Islands. Initially, five cases were diagnosed clinically but the incidence increased to thirty-six cases by January 24, and the final figure reached sixty-three by January 27.

A clinical diagnosis of poliomyelitis was made in each of the above reported cases and treatment rendered, but attempts to obtain virological confirmation were unsuccessful. One death and one residual paralytic case resulted from this outbreak, and a Salk vaccine immunization program was undertaken following this incident with each resident of Majuro having received two doses of vaccine. However, the program was halted during the latter part of 1959 due to a lack of funds to purchase the necessary vaccine and to administer such an extensive preventive measure.

From 1953 to the outbreak of January 12, 1963 there were no reports of paralytic poliomyelitis in the Trust Territory. There also were no reports to this office regarding any plans for the institution of a preventive program.

On January 4, 1963 a nine year old American girl, a two year resident of Kwajalein Island, developed poliomyelitis after having returned from a trip to Texas where a previous epidemic had been reported. A Marshallese youth, with parents who worked on Kwajalein, developed poliomyelitis symptoms and spread the disease to Ebeye, an island three miles away, where all of the Marshallese employees live. Reported cases mushroomed throughout the Marshalls District as carriers traveled from island to island. The toll was 212 clinical cases of poliomyelitis and 11 deaths, the onset occurring January 12, 1963 on Ebeye.

Trust Territory medical personnel, with the invaluable assistance of the military and other U. S. Government agencies, voluntary organizations and private industry located in the area, brought the epidemic under control. An extensive rehabilitation program is currently underway, and a mass immunization program is almost completed. The Trust Territory Government is presently formulating plans for the development of continuing immunization programs to prevent the spread of other preventable communicable diseases.