

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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September 20, 1963

Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a thirty-odd page summary of the report of the recently completed U. S. Survey Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Of special interest to you may be the following highlights:

1. The U. S. objective of establishing a permanent association with this area as a U. S. territory through a plebiscite with United Nations observers present, rather than giving it independence or continuing to administer it as a United Nations trusteeship, is definitely attainable. The Micronesian inhabitants recognize that they cannot stand alone and if compelled to choose between "independence" and "permanent affiliation with the United States" will vote accordingly.
2. The optimum timing in terms of Micronesian reactions would be early 1968. It should definitely be no later, but if pressure in the United Nations for an earlier plebiscite should become very strong, it could be held as early as 1966.
3. Major steps required in the interim to move simultaneously toward this objective and the longer run political, economic and social development of the inhabitants are:
  - a. Adopting a timetable starting with the formation of the Territorial Legislature in 1964 and leading to a plebiscite of self-determination in 1968 (possibly announcing it next Spring after the United Nations Visiting Mission returns from the Trust Territory).
  - b. Launching a \$46 million (or a minimum \$35 million) Capital Investment Program for the four year period from FY '65 through FY '68.

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- c. Aiding the Secretary of the Interior to discharge more effectively his administrative responsibility for the Trust Territory, and in this connection reaffirming his authority over the High Commissioner.
- d. Preparing the Congress, the American public and the Micronesian leaders to acceptance of this timetable and the possibility of such a territorial affiliation. This involves informal Congressional acceptance of the Mission's proposed compromise between the United Nations concept of full "self-government" and the traditional attitudes of the Congress toward the organization of territorial governments. The compromise also recognizes the present limitations on Micronesia's ability to govern itself.

The full report of the Mission will be submitted to you early in October.

Respectfully yours,

*Anthony M. Solomon*  
Anthony M. Solomon  
Chairman, U. S. Government  
Survey Mission

The President  
The White House  
Washington

Encl.