

✓ 12

Saturday, January 22, 1966
12:40 p. m.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOR : THE PRESIDENT
FROM Lee C. White

The adverse WHO report of our health programs for the Pacific Island Trust Territories was circulated to the Trusteeship Council yesterday. Attached is a brief note from the State Department covering our tactics for dealing with the immediate situation.

The WHO report is only one aspect of a serious longer range problem that has been developing in the Trust Territory. Eugenie Anderson has written a very critical report following her trip to the area with members of the House Committee for Interior and Insular Affairs during the period November 14 - December 9. She is personally convinced that our national security and long-range national interests require sweeping and immediate actions. State and Interior have been meeting almost continuously to decide what they agree on and where they part company. By the end of the week Secretary Udall plans a meeting with George Ball and the top staff involved in the two departments. Following this meeting, it is expected that there will be joint recommendations to you for a greatly accelerated program of Executive Branch and Congressional actions.

One of the immediate problems will be the selection of a competent, vigorous politically skillful man for the High Commissionership. The present incumbent, Will Godding, who has long enjoyed the protection of Bartlett and Gruening, is completely inadequate to institute the necessary reforms and to head the Territory toward a self-determination plebiscite vote at an early date. John Macy is working with Udall on this.

McGeorge Bundy and I are staying in touch on this matter.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 90-130

By [Signature] NARA, Date 12-4-90

COPY LBJ LIBRARY

102

Statement Received by Telephone from Mr. Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs

The United Nations Secretariat this morning circulated as official UN document available to all members the report of the World Health Organization investigation of medical conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which was requested last spring by the Trusteeship Council after a petition was received from the Territory alleging various deficiencies in medical practices. The U. S. supported the proposal for an impartial investigation. The UN document is public and is available to the press.

The U. S. Mission to the UN has issued a press statement in response to the report. We will be prepared with more detailed response when the Trusteeship Council meets, presumably at its next regular session in May, although there is an outside chance that the Soviet Union may seek an earlier meeting.

The Department of the Interior will be seeking legislation to permit a substantial increase in appropriations for the Trust Territory with particular attention to improving medical services. It is also seeking a means by which to improve the training of the native medical personnel upon whose skills the success of the local medical services depends to a considerable degree. State, Defense and Interior will also meet with a view to producing recommendations designed to advance our policies in the Trust Territory.