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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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May 2, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CHARLES E. JOHNSON
The White House

Subject: Peace Corps Program for the Trust
Territory of the Pacific Islands

Ross Pritchard has sent me a copy of his April 25 memorandum to you on the Peace Corps program for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. I want to let you know immediately of our strong support for his proposal. This is the kind of imaginative and forceful approach we need to get the Territory moving fast towards the human and economic standards essential to the political development we must have. The Peace Corps has gained a wealth of experience over the past five years in helping others in similar situations. Now is the time to put this experience and enthusiasm to work in an area of direct and continuing importance to the United States.

As you know, we expect hard sledding in the Trusteeship Council this June as a result of the World Health Organization Report. Debates in the Council will clearly influence the attitude of the United Nations Visiting Mission which will visit the Trust Territory in early 1967. An announcement by the President of a Peace Corps program as vigorous as the one proposed would demonstrate dramatically that the United States is living up to the obligations it undertook in the Trusteeship Agreement of 1947 to bring these people into the modern world.

Joseph J. Sisco

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