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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Dear Mr. President: (Mr. Speaker)

The principle of government by consent of the governed is the foundation of democracy.

Today, I urge the Congress to join me in taking a further step toward self-determination for the 93,000 Micronesian people who live in the Mariana, Caroline and Marshall Islands that comprise the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The United States administers this trust territory through a 1947 agreement with the United Nations. Under that responsibility we have encouraged the Micronesians to participate fully in determining their own future and shaping their own free institutions.

I am sure the Congress shares my deep interest in the status and well-being of Micronesia. Congress approved the original trusteeship agreement. It has supported an intensive program to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the islands.

In 1966, the people of the territory, acting through their popularly elected legislature, called upon the President of the United States to create a Commission to consider their future status.

I am happy to honor their request. The Joint Resolution I am submitting would provide for such a Commission.

The Commission will study and assess all of the factors bearing on the future of the trust territory. It will consult with the people of Micronesia. And it will make its recommendations to the President and to the Congress within eight months after its work begins.

I ask the Congress to join with the Executive Branch in this vital undertaking by authorizing the appointment of eight members of the Congress to serve on the Commission, along with eight members and a chairman selected by the President.

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Through this Commission, we once again have an opportunity to reaffirm our national commitment to the ideals of democracy and self-determination.

I am attaching a detailed statement of the Secretary of the Interior who, together with the Secretaries of State and Defense, join with me in urging prompt approval of this important resolution.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lyndon B. Johnson

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J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

Regarding the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific
Islands

Whereas the United States is the administering authority of
the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, pursuant to the
Trusteeship Agreement between the United States of America
and the Security Council of the United Nations; and
Whereas the United States, in the Trusteeship Agreement, undertook
a solemn obligation to "foster the development of such
political institutions as are suited to the trust territory"
and to "promote the development of the inhabitants of the
trust territory toward self-government or independence as may
be appropriate to the, particular circumstances of the trust
territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of
the people concerned;" and
Whereas the United States, in the Trusteeship Agreement, further
undertook a solemn obligation to promote the economic, social,
and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust
Territory; and
Whereas the United States is dedicated to the principle of govern-
ment by consent of the governed; and
Whereas the Congress of Micronesia has petitioned the President to
"establish a commission to consult the people of Micronesia to

ascertain their wishes and views, and to study and critically assess the political alternatives open to Micronesia; and Whereas the President has proposed to establish a commission in response to such petition and has invited congressional participation; and

Whereas the Congress by enacting Public Law 90-16 has evidenced its support for an intensive program to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Trust Territory: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the sense of Congress that whatever steps may be necessary shall be taken to provide for such a degree of self-government as will permit the people of the Trust Territory freely to express their wishes as soon as possible, and not later than June 30, 1972, on the future status of the Trust Territory.

SEC. 2. In addition to eight members of the commission to be appointed by the President, the appointment of eight members of Congress to serve on the President's Commission on the Status of the Trust Territory is hereby authorized. Four of such members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and four shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. An additional

member shall be appointed by the President, and shall serve as Chairman.

SEC. 3. The commission shall study and assess all factors bearing upon the future of the Trust Territory and shall consult as appropriate with representatives of the people of Micronesia. The commission shall, no later than eight months after funds for the commission are appropriated and made available to the commission, submit recommendations to the President and to the Congress of the United States concerning the best means to obtain the objective set forth in section 1.

SEC. 4. The commission is authorized to appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its functions. Employees of the executive branch may be detailed to assist in the work of the commission, with or without reimbursement. Any member of the commission who may be appointed by the President from among the public shall be compensated \$100 per diem for his services when engaged on commission business, and all members shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual travel and per diem in lieu of subsistence when engaged on commission business, as authorized by law for persons employed intermittently. The commission is authorized to procure services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109

SEC. 5. There is authorized to be appropriated out of moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated such funds as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution, but not to exceed \$200,000, to be available until expended.

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Requesting the High Commissioner, through the Secretary of the Department Interior, to petition the President of the United States of America to establish a Commission to ascertain the political desires of the people of Micronesia, and to develop and recommend procedures and courses of political education and action, with such alternatives as may be applicable and appropriate, to lead to the attainment of such desires and determination of the political status of Micronesia.

1 WHEREAS, the Micronesian people should freely exercise their
2 sovereign right of self-determination as set forth in the Trusteeship
3 Agreement between the United Nations and the government of the
4 United States of America; and

5 WHEREAS, the Congress of Micronesia believes that this generation
6 of Micronesians should have an early opportunity to determine the
7 ultimate constitutional and political status of Micronesia; and

8 WHEREAS, such determination should be made on the basis of
9 meaningful proposals of the political and constitutional alternatives
10 open to the people of Micronesia; now, therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Congress
12 of Micronesia, Second Regular Session, 1966, the Senate concurring,
13 that the High Commissioner, and through him the Secretary of the
14 Department of the Interior, be and are hereby enjoined to use their
15 good offices to petition the President of the United States of
16 America to establish a commission to consult the people of Micronesia
17 to ascertain their wishes and views, and to study and critically
18 assess the political alternatives open to Micronesia;
19 and,

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said commission report its findings
21 to the President of the United States of America no later than
22 December 31, 1968.

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TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES TRUST

TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS Article 75 of the Charter of the United Nations provides for the establishment of an international trusteeship system for the administration and supervision of such territories as may be placed thereunder by subsequent agreements; and

WHEREAS under Article 77 of the said Charter the trusteeship system may be applied to territories now held under mandate; and

WHEREAS on 17 December 1920 the Council of the League of Nations confirmed a mandate for the former German islands north of the equator to Japan, to be administered in accordance with Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations; and

WHEREAS Japan, as a result of the Second World War, has ceased to exercise any authority in these islands;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Security Council of the United Nations, having satisfied itself that the relevant articles of the Charter have been complied with, hereby resolves to approve the following terms of trusteeship for the Pacific Islands formerly under mandate to Japan.

ARTICLE 1

The Territory of the Pacific Islands, consisting of the islands formerly held by Japan under mandate in accordance with Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, is hereby designated as a strategic area and placed under the trusteeship system established in the Charter of the United Nations. The Territory of the Pacific Islands is hereinafter referred to as the trust territory.

ARTICLE 2

The United States of America is designated as the administering authority of the trust territory.

ARTICLE 3

The administering authority shall have full powers of administration, legislation, and jurisdiction over the territory subject to the provisions of this agreement, and may apply to the trust territory, subject to any modifications which the administering authority may consider desirable, such of the laws of the United States as it may deem appropriate to local conditions and requirements.

ARTICLE 4

ARTICLE 4

The Administering authority, in discharging the obligations of trusteeship in the trust territory, shall act in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and the provisions of this agreement, and shall, as specified in Article 83 (2) of the Charter, apply the objectives of the international trusteeship system, as set forth in Article 76 of the Charter, to the people of the trust territory.

ARTICLE 5

In discharging its obligations under Article 76 (a) and Article 84, of the Charter, the administering authority shall ensure that the trust territory shall play its part, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in the maintenance of international peace and security. To this end the administering authority shall be entitled:

1. to establish naval, military and air bases and to erect fortifications in the trust territory;
2. to station and employ armed forces in the territory; and
3. to make use of volunteer forces, facilities and assistance from the trust territory in carrying out the obligations towards the Security Council undertaken in this regard by the administering authority, as well as for the local defense and the maintenance of law and order within the trust territory.

ARTICLE 6

In discharging its obligations under Article 76 (b) of the Charter, the administering authority shall:

1. foster the development of such political institutions as are suited to the trust territory and shall promote the development of the inhabitants of the trust territory toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the trust territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned; and to this end shall give to the inhabitants of the trust territory a progressively increasing share in the administrative services in the territory; shall develop their participation in government; shall give due recognition to the customs of the inhabitants in providing a system of law for the territory; and shall take other appropriate measures toward these ends;

2. promote

2. promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants, and to this end shall regulate the use of natural resources; encourage the development of fisheries, agriculture, and industries; protect the inhabitants against the loss of their lands and resources; and improve the means of transportation and communication;

3. promote the social advancement of the inhabitants, and to this end shall protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of all elements of the population without discrimination; protect the health of the inhabitants; control the traffic in arms and ammunition, opium and other dangerous drugs, and alcohol and other spirituous beverages; and institute such other regulations as may be necessary to protect the inhabitants against social abuses; and

4. promote the educational advancement of the inhabitants, and to this end shall take steps toward the establishment of a general system of elementary education; facilitate the vocational and cultural advancement of the population; and shall encourage qualified students to pursue higher education, including training on the professional level.

ARTICLE 7

In discharging its obligations under Article 76 (c), of the Charter, the administering authority shall guarantee to the inhabitants of the trust territory freedom of conscience, and, subject only to the requirements of public order and security, freedom of speech, of the press, and of assembly; freedom of worship, and of religious teaching; and freedom of migration and movement.

ARTICLE 8

1. In discharging its obligations under Article 76 (d) of the Charter, as defined by Article 83 (2) of the Charter, the administering authority, subject to the requirements of security, and the obligation to promote the advancement of the inhabitants, shall accord to nationals of each Member of the United Nations and to companies and associations organized in conformity with the laws of such Member, treatment in the trust territory no less favourable than that accorded therein to nationals, companies and associations of any other United Nations except the administering authority.

2. The administering authority shall ensure equal treatment to the Members of the United Nations and their nationals in the administration of justice.

3. Nothing in this Article shall be so construed as to accord traffic rights to aircraft flying into and out of the trust territory.

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Such rights shall be subject to agreement between the administering authority and the state whose nationality such aircraft possesses.

4. The administering authority may negotiate and conclude commercial and other treaties and agreements with Members of the United Nations and other states, designed to attain for the inhabitants of the trust territory treatment by the Members of the United Nations and other states no less favourable than that granted by them to the nations of other states. The Security Council may recommend, or invite other organs of the United Nations to consider and recommend, what rights the inhabitants of the trust territory should acquire in consideration of the rights obtained by Members of the United Nations in the trust territory.

ARTICLE 9

The administering authority shall be entitled to constitute the trust territory into a customs, fiscal, or administrative union or federation with other territories under United States jurisdiction and to establish common services between such territories and the trust territory where such measure are not inconsistent with the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System and with the terms of this agreement.

ARTICLE 10

The administering authority, acting under the provisions of Article 3 of this agreement, may accept membership in any regional advisory commission, regional authority, or technical organization, or other voluntary association of states, may co-operate with specialized international bodies, public or private, and may engage in other forms of international co-operation.

ARTICLE 11

1. The administering authority shall take the necessary steps to provide the status of citizenship of the trust territory for the inhabitants of the trust territory.
2. The administering authority shall afford diplomatic and consular protection to inhabitants of the trust territory when outside the territorial limits of the trust territory or of the territory of the administering authority.

ARTICLE 12

The administering authority shall enact such legislation as may be necessary to place the provisions of this agreement in effect in the

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trust territory.

ARTICLE 13

The provisions of Articles 87 and 88 of the Charter shall be applicable to the trust territory, provided that the administering authority may determine the extent of their applicability to any areas which may from time to time be specified by it as closed for security reasons.

ARTICLE 14

The administering authority undertakes to apply in the trust territory the provisions of any international conventions and recommendations which may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the trust territory and which would be conducive to the achievement of the basic objectives of Article 6 of this agreement.

ARTICLE 15

The terms of the present agreement shall not be altered, amended or terminated without the consent of the administering authority.

ARTICLE 16

The present agreement shall come into force when approved by the Security Council of the United Nations and by the Government of the United States after due constitutional process.

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