

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Authority E.O. 12958
By AB NARA Date 1/19/05SECRET

March 18, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Richard V. Sneider

SUBJECT: Trust Territory of Pacific Islands (TTPI)

Under Secretary Richardson proposed to you last evening that the Under Secretary's committee handle the Trust Territory question. I would have no serious objections to this procedure -- providing we get quick results. The problems of the Trust Territory are in one sense not basic policy but how to implement the basic policy of gaining permanent control over the Islands.

I would suggest that you agree to Richardson's suggestion, provided -- (1) The State Department gets Interior's agreement and gives Interior a full role. This won't work if Interior is not aboard. Richardson should probably call Train. (2) Recommendations are produced by May 1 at the latest. (3) The recommendations go to the President, since it is essential that any major program in the Trust Territory have the active and full support of the President. Otherwise, we will have more inaction. (4) A member of the NSC staff sit in on the working group to knock heads together and make sure that any differences between State and Interior are brought clearly to the President's attention and quickly resolved.

*I agree**HK*SECRET

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April 18, 1962

SECRET

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 145

TO: The Secretary of the Interior
 The Secretary of State
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare

SUBJECT: New Policy for the U.S. Trust Territory of the
 Pacific Islands

1. From 1947, when the United States undertook the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as a United Nations Trusteeship, until 1961, the U.S. has carried out its obligations to the inhabitants of the Territory in such a manner as to change as little as possible their customary way of life. The present administration has recognized, however, that fundamental changes have been taking place in the outlook of the peoples of the remaining dependent areas and in the attitude of the rest of the world toward these areas, bringing with it a recognition of the need for a greatly accelerated program of political, economic and social development. The obligations of the United States under the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement must be reconsidered in the light of these facts of international life.

2. Under the terms of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement, the United States is committed to the preparation of the people of the Trust Territory for self-government or independence, according to the freely expressed wishes of the people. It is unlikely that the Trust Territory could ever become a viable, independent nation. Accordingly, I have concluded that it is in the interest of the United States that the Trust Territory be given a real option at the appropriate time to move into a new and lasting relationship to the United States within our political framework. This, then should be our goal. If it is to be

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accomplished, the people of the Trust Territory must become an educated people, prepared to exercise an informed choice, which means a choice by people capable of weighing the realistic alternatives. There is an urgent need for the initiation of programs leading to the improvement of education, as a first step. In addition, improvements in other public services and the economic development of the Trust Territory are as important, if not as urgent.

3. I request the Secretaries of the Interior, State, Defense and Health, Education and Welfare to designate representatives at the Assistant Secretary level for a Task Force to develop, and put into effect the programs necessary to carry forward the general policy set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Memorandum. A member of the White House staff will be available to sit with the group to assist in its work. The representative of the Department of the Interior will serve as Chairman. Its responsibilities will include the identification of special problems requiring further investigation. It will, as necessary, draw upon the resources of other agencies of the Executive Branch, and will consult with the Director of the Bureau of the Budget on the additional funds required to carry out the policy described herein.

4. The Task Force will bear in mind the importance to the United States of (a) the attitude of the United Nations, the Trusteeship Council, and the neighboring countries of the Pacific toward the United States as the trust administering power; (b) the security requirements of the United States in the area; and (c) the U.S. long-term objectives of developing the Trust Territory as a viable territory permanently associated with the United States and enjoying a standard of living consistent with such association.

/s/ John F. Kennedy

Copy furnished:

The Secretary of the Treasury
The Director, Bureau of the Budget

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WASHINGTON

HFK:

The Under Secretary
Committee will meet at
4:30 P.M. on Monday.
That will give you a full
hour before you have to
leave for your 6:00
P.M. mtg. on the Hill.
I will be with you and
can carry on if there's
any unfinished business.
The attached is your
briefing book. —ME

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March 19, 1969

MEMO FOR: Dick Snider
FROM: Al Haig 
SUBJECT: Trust Territory of Pacific
Islands (TTPI)

Dick: Henry has read this memorandum and suggests that you send a copy to Mr. Richardson so that he will be aware of some of the pitfalls in this area.

Attachment

*Sent to
Mr. R.*

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