

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

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

CONFIDENTIAL

April 22, 1969

11 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Richard L. Sneider

OBE
6-19-69

SUBJECT: Appointment with Secretary of Interior Hickel
on Trust Territories

You are going over to Secretary Hickel's office at 11:00 A.M., April 23 for a discussion of the Trust Territory problem. I will accompany you.

~~Hickel proposes to visit the Trust Territories May 1 to May 10. He has also developed a program for the area designed to upgrade the administration of the Trust Territories, an outline is attached at Tab A.~~

~~Basically, Hickel is on the right track and his determination to improve our administration needs every encouragement. The major problem with Hickel's plan is that he has decided to preempt the inter-departmental structure and in fact the President's decision-making prerogatives. Both State and Defense have major interests in the Trust Territories and in fact share Hickel's objectives. There are, however, both serious policy problems with respect to a program to push through the UN action on the status of the Trust Territories and with respect to assuring the necessary cooperation of Defense and other agencies in upgrading administration of the territories. Furthermore, there are both policy and public relations reasons for assuring that a decision on the Trust Territories is made by the President on the consideration of recommendations from all Government agencies concerned. Hickel would like to short-circuit this procedure.~~

~~The inter-agency committee set up by the Under Secretary Group is attempting to develop a policy paper, with options, for the President's consideration. It has recognized the urgency involved, but is frankly not getting the full cooperation of Interior. As pointed out above, Hickel wants to go it alone.~~

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~~My recommendation is:~~

1. ~~Hickel be supported in his effort to improve administration of the areas.~~
2. He be ~~encouraged to work with State and Defense in developing options and recommendations for the President,~~ before he visits the Trust Territories.
3. ~~You agree to push this through the NSC machinery if necessary, as quickly as possible but that Hickel delay his trip until there is the full and necessary consideration.~~

Attachment

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