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	WASHINGTON INFORMA	

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April 22, 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Richard L

SUBJECT: Appointment with Secretary of Interior Hickel on Trust Territories

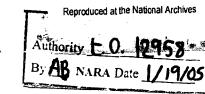
You are going over to Secretary Hickel's office at 11:00 A.M., April 23 for a discussion of the Trust Territory problem. I will accompany you.

Hickel proposes to visit the Trust Ferritorize Map deter May de His has also developed a program for the area designed to upgrade the administration of the Trust Territories an outline is attached at Tab AT

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 presemptor the inter-departmental structure and in fact the President's decisionmaking 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 Secretaries Group is attempting to develop a policy paper, with options, for the President's consideration. It has recognized the urgency involved, has is frankly, not getting the full cooperation of Interior. As pointed out above, Hickel wants to go it alone.

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1. Nickal be supported in his affort to improve, administration of the area.

2. He be encouraged to work with State and Defenses in developing options and recommendations for the President, before he visits the Trust Territories.

3. You agree to push this through the NSG machinery if necessary, as quickly as possible but that. Hickel delay his this until there is the full and necessary-considerations

Attachment

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