

- MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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

TOP SECRET

May 19, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*

SUBJECT: Secretary Hickel's Action Program for the TTPI

Secretary Hickel has sent you a report on his recent visit to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and a description of the action program being developed. (Tab A)

Secretary Hickel reports a successful trip. He believes that the Micronesian leaders remain strongly pro-American despite the inadequacy of the administration under which they have lived and despite years of having had little voice in running their own affairs. They promised full cooperation in the program which he proposed. On his return, Secretary Hickel talked with Senators Jackson and Allott and with Congressman Aspinall and was assured of their cooperation in the legislative program needed to bring the TTPI into a full political partnership.

Secretary Hickel now plans to follow up his visit with rapid, well-coordinated actions. He has already taken the following steps:

He has begun to organize a special task force consisting of experts in health, education, engineering, resources development and administration, to spend about three months in the TTPI this summer.

He has asked the Secretary of Defense to provide several small construction teams and several small vessels. These will be assigned to small, high-priority projects which the Micronesians themselves want.

He is shifting teams of surveyors from other Interior projects to help establish land boundaries in Micronesia, to simplify the clearing of land titles necessary to undertake building construction.

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Secretary Hickel has also set up a fairly detailed schedule for the development of an Organic Law.

About September 1, six Micronesian leaders will come to Washington to consult with an Interdepartmental Team and with Congress.

A draft Organic Law is to be developed by Mid-October.

The six Micronesian leaders will take the draft Organic Law back to Micronesia for a referendum in early 1970. This referendum would in effect be their opportunity to express their views on their future, but the referendum would not offer the options of voting for free association or independence.

If approved in the referendum, the Organic Law would be submitted to Congress.

I believe that these actions are fully consistent with the Program on the Trust Territory which you approved before Secretary Hickel made his trip there.

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