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Authority EO 12958
By P. J. NARA Date 1-21-05

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

AUG 15 1969

Memorandum

To: Staff Director, Under Secretaries Committee

From: Assistant Secretary--Public Land Management

Subject: Micronesia Political Status Act

In its April 24 memorandum for the President, the Under Secretaries Committee indicated that the Organic Act for Micronesia would be prepared under Department of the Interior leadership in consultation with other interested Departments. The memorandum further stated that the progress of this effort would be kept under review by the NSC Under Secretaries Committee.

The Working Group of the TTPI Interagency Coordinating Committee has now completed the draft of a proposed Organic Act and is completing a fall-back position for possible alternate use. A copy of the first is attached and you will be furnished copies of the latter by August 25. You will note that the Organic Act is referred to as the Micronesia Political Status Act.

It now becomes important to have the Under Secretaries Committee review these documents to determine that the Political Status Act is a proper base of negotiation with Micronesian representatives who will arrive in Washington on September 1 to begin discussions with the Department of the Interior. It is anticipated that these negotiations will result in the legislation to be proposed to the U.S. Congress. You are aware that the schedule required by Chairman Aspinall makes submission of such legislation necessary prior to September 20, 1969.

It seems necessary that the Under Secretaries Committee meet on August 28 because the Under Secretary of the Interior must be in Alaska on the 29th and the Micronesian delegation is arriving September 1 to commence negotiation September 2. As you know, Interior has the responsibility for handling the negotiations with the Micronesians. Accordingly, it would be helpful to the negotiating team, as well as beneficial to all those agencies concerned on the Executive side, to have some guidelines established which all of the interested parties are agreed to.

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As you know, Mr. Edgar Kaiser has been working on the Micronesian problem for Secretary Hickel. On his last visit to Micronesia, in which the meeting between President Nixon and the leadership of the Congress of Micronesia took place, a copy of Interior's draft Organic Act supplied to Chairman Aspinall was given to the Micronesians. They have been working on this draft to establish their position during the past few weeks. Kaiser is currently in Micronesia obtaining the Micronesian position on the Organic Act. If desired by the Under Secretaries Committee, he would be available to brief the Under Secretaries.

(Sgd.) Harrison Loesch

Harrison Loesch

Attachment