

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1969 ACTION

1. re: ...
act 5/1/69

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HA*

SUBJECT: Future of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

At your direction, U.S. policy towards the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has been reviewed by the NSC Under Secretaries Committee with participation of the Under Secretary of Interior. The Committee has forwarded to you the attached recommendations (Tab A) which have the concurrence of the Secretaries of State, Defense and Interior. If you approve these recommendations, Secretary Hickel will use them as a basis for his discussions during his forthcoming visit to the Trust Territory beginning May 3.

The major issue considered by the Under Secretaries Committee was the position of your Administration with regard to the future status of the Trust Territory. The Committee considered various options, including:

- a. Continuation of the UN Trust agreement;
- b. A referendum or plebiscite under UN auspices which would include the option of full independence;
- c. Revival of legislation for a status commission; and
- d. Proceeding directly to the drafting of the Organic Act defining the Territory's future status but not including the offer of the option of independence.

The Committee recommendations are that:

- a. High priority be given to the bringing of the Territory under U.S. sovereignty at an early date;

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By *HR*, NARA, Date *9/14/99*

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b. The U.S. cannot give the Territory an option of independence or free association due to overriding security and strategic interests;

c. An Organic Act, drafted in consultation with the Micronesians, is the most promising approach since it would give the Micronesians an opportunity to freely express their views. Your Administration should preserve substantial flexibility with regard to the specific terms of status in the Organic Act (excluding independence or free association), to maximize Micronesian support and minimize difficulties with the United Nations.

It is recommended that Secretary Hickel be authorized to propose during his visit to Micronesia an Organic Act for the Territory in the preparation of which the Micronesians would participate, but not present a specific proposal on status.

In addition, Secretary Hickel would present to the Micronesians his program of action set forth in Annex A of the Under Secretaries Committee paper if this is approved by you. (The action program is summarized at Tab B.) This program of action includes using military construction units to undertake much-needed public works projects in the Territory. This can be done without adversely affecting our military effort in Vietnam. The program is very broad and represents a major step forward in improving our image in Micronesia.

Some aspects of the program will require legislative action, but much can be done with the current legislation and financial resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That you approve the recommendations of the NSC Under Secretaries Committee on status, including authorization for Secretary Hickel to propose an Organic Act during his forthcoming visit to the Trust Territory.

Approve

Disapprove

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2. That you approve the program of action (summarized at Tab B) prepared by Secretary Hickel for presentation to the Micronesians during his visit.

Approve _____ *(see attached)*

Disapprove _____

Attachments

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