

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

20 September 1963

①
Weekend reading
Family

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Solomon's Mission to Islands of the Pacific Trust
Territories

Herewith a summary of Tony Solomon's report. If the President is doing any reflective reading this weekend, or while he is flying around next week, you might want to put it with his papers. I think it is worth reading and at some point we need to get a nod from the President.

Perhaps after he has looked at it, or in the event he doesn't have time to look at it, we might get Solomon a fifteen-minute appointment, possibly the week after next.



Michael V. Forrestal

Encl.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

September 20, 1963

Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a thirty-odd page summary of the report of the recently completed U. S. Survey Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Of special interest to you may be the following highlights:

1. The U. S. objective of establishing a permanent association with this area as a U. S. territory through a plebiscite with United Nations observers present, rather than giving it independence or continuing to administer it as a United Nations trusteeship, is definitely attainable. The Micronesian inhabitants recognize that they cannot stand alone and if compelled to choose between "independence" and "permanent affiliation with the United States" will vote accordingly.
2. The optimum timing in terms of Micronesian reactions would be early 1968. It should definitely be no later, but if pressure in the United Nations for an earlier plebiscite should become very strong, it could be held as early as 1966.
3. Major steps required in the interim to move simultaneously toward this objective and the longer run political, economic and social development of the inhabitants are:
 - a. Adopting a timetable starting with the formation of the Territorial Legislature in 1964 and leading to a plebiscite of self-determination in 1968 (possibly announcing it next Spring after the United Nations Visiting Mission returns from the Trust Territory).
 - b. Launching a \$46 million (or a minimum \$35 million) Capital Investment Program for the four year period from FY'65 through FY '68.

(10)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- c. Aiding the Secretary of the Interior to discharge more effectively his administrative responsibility for the Trust Territory, and in this connection reaffirming his authority over the High Commissioner.

- d. Preparing the Congress, the American public and the Micronesian leaders to acceptance of this timetable and the possibility of such a territorial affiliation. This involves informal Congressional acceptance of the Mission's proposed compromise between the United Nations concept of full "self-government" and the traditional attitudes of the Congress toward the organization of territorial governments. The compromise also recognizes the present limitations on Micronesia's ability to govern itself.

The full report of the Mission will be submitted to you early in October.

Respectfully yours,

Anthony M. Solomon

Anthony M. Solomon
Chairman, U. S. Government
Survey Mission

The President
The White House
Washington

Encl.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9-20-63

SUMMARY OF REPORT BY U. S. GOVERNMENT
SURVEY MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

July-August 1963

The Setting

1. The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands--or Micronesia-- comprises the former Japanese mandated Caroline, Marshall and Mariana Islands. Scattered over an area as large as the mainland of the United States, those islands, with their 81,000 people, came under United States control first by conquest and then, in 1947, under a trusteeship agreement with the Security Council of the United Nations. With a variety of racial mixtures, languages and cultures, essentially a series of individual island communities rather than a unified society, a lack of human and natural resources, tremendously difficult communications and transportation, the area has presented very serious administrative and developmental problems to the United States. For a variety of reasons, in the almost twenty years of United States control, physical facilities have further deteriorated in many areas, the economy has remained relatively dormant and progress toward political and social development has been slow. As a result, criticism of the trusteeship arrangement has been growing in the United Nations.

2. In recognition of the problem, a National Security Council Task Force was established in 1962 (by NSAM No. 145) to consider what action might be taken to improve the situation and to provide policy and program advice to the Secretary of the Interior who is responsible for

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

16

2

the administration of the Trust Territory. The Task Force, consisting of representatives of the Departments of the Interior, Defense, State and Health, Education, and Welfare and observers from the NSC and Bureau of the Budget, has considered and recommended several steps for greater aid to the area which are embodied legislation (H. R. 3198) now pending in the Congress. It also proposed the sending of a survey mission to the Trust Territory to conduct a more thorough study of the area's major problems.

3. The Mission's formal instructions from the President (through NASM No. 243 of May 9, 1963) were to survey the political, economic and social problems of the people of the Trust Territory and to make recommendations leading to the formulation of programs and policies for an accelerated rate of development so that the people may make an informed and free choice as to their future in accordance with United States responsibilities under the trusteeship agreement.

4. In addition to its formal instructions, the Mission was advised by the Task Force before departure that: (a) United States military and strategic interests require the continuing and permanent control of Micronesia, primarily to deny the area to other powers; (b) the United States probably has only five to seven years before United Nations' pressures compel the holding of a plebiscite leading to the termination of the trusteeship; and (c) therefore it has been determined that the primary United States objective is to get the people of Micronesia to vote for permanent affiliation with the United States in such a plebiscite.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

16

3

✓ 5. The other key factor in the Mission's considerations was the evidenced willingness of the Congress to appropriate such funds as it judges necessary to achieve both United States political objectives and the attainment of minimum educational and living standards by the inhabitants of Micronesia.

6. The Mission consisted of nine men, both Government and non-Government, selected by its chairman and serving for differing periods of time up to six weeks in the Trust Territory during July and August 1963.

Major Objectives and Considerations

1. Working within its broad frame of reference, the Mission's major findings relate to three key sets of questions that it attempted to answer:

- a. What are the elements to consider in the preparation for, organization, timing and favorable outcome of a plebiscite in Micronesia and how will this action affect the long-run problem that Micronesia, after affiliation, will pose for the United States?
- b. What should be the content and cost of the minimum capital investment and operating program needed to insure a favorable vote in the plebiscite, and what should be the content and cost of the maximum program that could be effectively mounted to develop the Trust Territory most rapidly?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

c. What actions need to be taken to improve the relationships between the current Trust Territory government and Washington and to insure that it can implement any necessary political strategy and development program with reasonable efficiency and effectiveness.

2. The Mission's findings and recommendations on these three sets of questions correspond to Parts I, II and III of its report. Those recommendations sum up to an integrated master plan which, if accepted, would provide guidelines for Federal action through fiscal year 1968 to secure the objectives of:

- a. Winning the plebiscite and making Micronesia a United States territory under circumstances which will: (1) satisfy the somewhat conflicting interests of the Micronesians, the United Nations and the United States along lines satisfactory to the Congress; (2) be appropriate to the present political and other capabilities of the Micronesians; and (3) provide sufficient flexibility in government structure to accommodate to whatever measure of local self-government the Congress might grant to Micronesia in later years.
- ✓ b. Achieving rapidly, minimum but satisfactory standards of living in Mocronesia.
- c. Raising cash incomes through the development of the current, largely crop-gathering subsistence economy.

CONFIDENTIAL

16

5

3. There are, however, unique elements in the delicate problem of Micronesia and the attainment of our objectives that urgently require the agreement now of the President and the Congress as to the guidelines for United States action over the next few years. First, the United States will be moving counter to the anti-colonial movement that has just about completed sweeping the world and will be breaching its own policy since World War I of not acquiring new territorial possessions if it seeks to make Micronesia a United States territory. Second, of all eleven United Nations trusteeships, this will be the only one not to terminate in independence or merger with a contiguous country, but in a territorial affiliation with the administering power. Third, as the only "strategic trusteeship," the Security Council will have jurisdiction over the formal termination of the trusteeship agreement, and, if such a termination is vetoed there, the United States might have to decide to proceed with a series of actions that would make the trusteeship agreement a dead issue, at least from the Micronesian viewpoint. Fourth, the 2,000 islands of Micronesia are, and will remain in the now foreseeable future, a deficit area to be subsidized by the United States. Fifth, granted that this subsidy can be justified as a "strategic rental," it will amount to about \$300 annually per Micronesian through 1968 and any reductions thereafter will require long-range programming along the lines of a master development plan as proposed in the Mission report. Finally, this hoped for long-range reduction in the level of subsidization and the implementation of the

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(16)

political strategy and capital investment programs through fiscal year 1968 require a modern and more efficient concept of overseas territorial administration than is evident in the prevailing approach of the quasi-colonial bureaucracy in the present Trust Territory government.

Part I. Political Development of Micronesia

1. The Washington policy, adopted last year, of having the Trust Territory affiliate permanently with the United States has not had an observable impact on the Trust Territory government. American and Micronesian officials in the area appear still to be thinking in terms of independence for Micronesia as an eventual, distant goal and there appears to have been little attempt to direct Micronesia toward thinking about eventual affiliation with the United States. In the absence of further action, the Mission believes that the momentum of previous attitudes and policies which did not involve the concept of affiliation will be hard to overcome.

2. It can be stated quite unequivocally that the masses of Micronesians are not only not concerned with the political future but also are not even aware of it as a question. They simply live in the present reality of the "American time" that has replaced the "Japanese time." The earlier German and Spanish times are dimly, if at all remembered.

3. The situation is not quite the same among the political elite. Political power among the Micronesians is in a triumvirate of the

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

traditional clan chiefs, the educated younger bureaucracy working in the Trust Territory government and the small but powerful group of businessmen operating trading companies. These groups are aware that their political future is still to be resolved, but even they generally shy away from actively concerning themselves with it. The reason lies in their belief that: (a) they cannot stand alone now and that independence, even if they want it, is so far distant that meaningful consideration is not practical; (b) there has been no indication from the United States of an alternative to independence--they do not know that the United States may desire affiliation; and (c) even if affiliation were possible, the prospect creates feelings of uncertainty and insecurity that they would rather not face.

4. These insecurities arise from general ignorance as to what affiliation means and what it would do to their lives as they know them today. The more important of the traditional chiefs are especially concerned whether "coming under United States laws" would invalidate the present restrictions against non-Micronesians owning land and whether it would affect their complicated communal land-tenure systems on which their social organization and customs and the chiefs' powers are based. The merchant businessmen, even though they want more economic development, react against the prospect of a flood of American businessmen with whom they believe they cannot compete. The Micronesians in the government bureaucracy are less fearful of permanent affiliation

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

but they also share in the general concern among the political elite that they don't want to be swamped by Americans and lose their status "as the Hawaiians did."

5. On the other hand, there is a sophisticated awareness among a goodly number of the Micronesian elite that their own interests are not best served by the United Nations trusteeship simply because, as a provisional non-permanent arrangement, it perpetuates the excessively dependent psychology and habits of a people who have been handed around among four major powers in the last 65 years. There also appears to be an unexpressed but fairly widespread and awakeable emotional feeling among these more sophisticated Micronesians that they want an "identity" and a permanence of status that is not compatible with the implied impermanence of the trusteeship.

6. Another disadvantage of the trusteeship is its protective and custodian nature, a carryover from the philosophy of the League of Nations mandates, which is not fully compatible with the more recent emphasis on modernization and more rapid development of peoples under trusteeship. Most policies which try to be both development-minded and protective do not seem to do a good job of either. However, a conflict between development objectives and protective attitudes characterizes the current administration of the Trust Territory. Although it has become fashionable for American officials connected with the Trust Territory to disclaim any desire to maintain an

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

"anthropological zoo," in reality protective and custodial policies are very prevalent. This conflict within official thinking faithfully mirrors the dilemma of the Micronesians themselves. They desire urgent economic development, but want to retain, at the same time, restrictions on non-Micronesians immigrating, occupying land and starting businesses. The Mission believes that, if for no other reason than that of the impending plebiscite, the Micronesians need reassurances on the continuance of those restrictions but, at the same time, we are recommending certain modifications which will initiate long-run liberalization of those restrictions.

7. Another factor of importance affecting the plebiscite is the economic stagnation and deterioration of public facilities that has characterized the United States administration of the Trust Territory in contrast to that of the Japanese. The rapid growth under the Japanese was due not only to their large capital investment and subsidy program, but to Japanese government-directed colonization by Japanese and Okinawans. The fact that it was the Japanese rather than the Micronesians who supplied the labor for the then flourishing sugar cane and commercial fishing industries and who benefited most from the Japanese government's subsidization of the area does not alter the fact that per capita Micronesian incomes were almost three times as high before the war as they are now and that the Japanese

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

10

✓ constructed and maintained extensive public works in the area. For the outcome of the plebiscite to be favorable, the Mission believes there must be an effective capital investment program before the plebiscite to give the Micronesians a sense of progress to replace the deadly feeling of economic dormancy.

8. While more than 95 percent of the budget of the Trust Territory government is financed by the United States and the importance of those funds in influencing a favorable plebiscite result is obvious, the impact of United States funds has been lessened by: (a) considerable feeling among Micronesians bureaucrats that a large part (actually over \$2 million) is spent on high salaries for United States personnel in Micronesia; (b) numerous complaints about, and dissatisfactions with the competence of the Trust Territory government (one district congress advised the Mission that, despite area needs, they did not want more United States funds if they were not "properly administered by real experts who should be brought in"); and (c) some belief that United States aid results only from United Nations action and that Micronesia might not do as well as a United States territory.

9. The Trust Territory government gets good marks from the Micronesians, however, for its genuine fostering of democratic civil liberties and increasing the participation of Micronesians in various levels of local government (a territorial advisory council, six district

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

16

11

legislatures and a multitude of municipal governments). However, Micronesia is still a long way in terms of experience and funds from being able to mount a viable local government. The very multiplicity of local governmental levels is beginning to cause problems, particularly at the municipal level where there is much dissatisfaction because of the realization that, in a large majority of cases, the "U. S. imposed" municipal taxes produce only enough revenue to pay salaries to municipal officials and councilmen for making decisions that the village elders previously made free as a public service. This is a clear case of too much government.

10. The great distances, cultural and linguistic barriers separating the six districts of Micronesia also have special implications for a plebiscite. The Mission found little consciousness among the people of the Trust Territory of themselves as "Micronesians" and no emotional nationalistic feelings. There are no traditions of unity but rather a history of individual island cultures. There is almost universal ignorance in each district as to who are the leaders, political or otherwise, of the other five districts, and there is little inclination to compromise on a district's special interest in favor of the Territory's advancement as a whole. This regional separatism is strengthened by the existence of separate district legislatures, and to date only minor progress has been made toward a centralized indigenous government. The district legislatures function reasonably well given the small revenues they can command, but they represent conservative bastions for

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

the maintenance of traditional policies, and land and social customs. Within some districts, especially Yap and Pohnpei, there is the additional complication of the outlying island groupings resenting the domination of the islands nearer to the district centers. This situation requires the most carefully impartial handling by the United States in the period before the plebiscite and the avoidance in the plebiscite of questions of special interest to particular districts, such as "union with Guam" which is an issue in the Marianas. It also creates the need for the right mix of political compromises in the organization of the territorial legislature. (The Mission's report, in Part I, identifies for each district the particular issues, political groupings and key people of importance in that district.)

11. The Mission has no difficulty in concluding that there is little desire for independence in the Trust Territory. It would go so far as to say that even if a plebiscite were held today without preparation, the total vote for independence would probably be only from 2 to 5 percent. The Mission also concluded that there is no hard core of feeling against permanent affiliation with the United States but, as described earlier, an inchoate insecurity among a substantial number of the elite that can be allayed only through certain actions recommended below.

12. The Mission recommends that the plebiscite be held in 1967 or 1968 because:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(16)

13

- a. Our timetable calls for creation of the true territory-wide legislature in the fall of 1964 and having its members serve out an initial three-year term before the plebiscite, during which the members from the different districts can develop more political experience working together than was possible in the present territory-wide advisory council.

- b. The maximum impact of the recommended capital investment program will not be felt until late 1967 on the one hand, nor will it be felt as strongly after 1968, since the Mission does not expect the development process in the private sector of the Micronesian economy to be strong enough to offset the anticipated cutback in the capital investment program after fiscal year 1968 (by which time the higher priority capital needs of education, public health and public works will have been met).

- c. The early definitive resolution of the political future of Micronesia as a United States territory will make it easier for the United States, if it so decides, to permit Japanese businessmen, technicians and fishing vessels into non-sensitive areas of the Trust Territory which would supply a very great stimulus to economic development at no cost to the United States and thereby permit reductions in the United States subsidization of the territory.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(16)

14

If necessary, the plebiscite could be advanced to 1966 by compressing the schedule for the development of the legislature. It could be created by the spring of 1964 if the High Commissioner were instructed to do so. However, such an advance in the plebiscite timing would be at the expense of giving the legislature some necessary experience and allowing the capital investment program to have its full impact.

13. The questions offered in the plebiscite to the Micronesians should be confined to two in number with some such general wording as follows:

- (a) Are you in favor of becoming an independent nation?
- (b) Are you in favor of a permanent affiliation with the
United States of America?

There will be some nations in the United Nations which, sensing our objective, will claim that the plebiscite should be confined to the single option of independence since the basic idea of trusteeships is that they should terminate in independence. There may also be some nations which will claim that, in its 1967-68 state of development and dependence Micronesia cannot realistically choose independence and is therefore not being given real alternatives. To some extent, this latter argument could be nullified by including a third plebiscite option--namely, continuation for the time being of the status quo of the trusteeship with the United States as the administering power. From our viewpoint, this would reduce the vote for permanent affiliation from 95% of those voting to a substantially smaller percentage, although still a majority.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

16

15

14. The Mission recommends the following steps as part of the overall program to achieve our plebiscite objective and at the same time promote the longer run political development and general advancement of the Micronesians:

- a. A qualified American should be appointed in each of the six districts to develop and maintain continuous liaison with the various leaders of the three politically critical groups. His main job would be to develop, in a gradual way, interest among these people in his district in favor of permanent affiliation by supplying the information needed to eliminate their ignorance and allay their fears as to what the affiliation would entail, as well as its advantages. He could also administer useful adult education and United States and world information programs, as well as the local radio programming now handled by the district director of education. These six information officers, in whose recruitment United States Information Service should cooperate, would also have a regular political reporting function so acutely lacking at present, possibly in direct contact with the State Department.
- b. Washington should facilitate the general development of Micronesian interest in, and loyalties to, the United States by various actions, three of which are:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

16

- (1) Sponsorship by the Department of State of Micronesian leader visits to the United States.
 - (2) Introduction in the school system of curriculum changes and patriotic rituals recommended in section of the Mission report on education.
 - (3) Increasing the number of college scholarships offered to Micronesians, a highly sensitive issue in the Trust Territory.
- c. The Community Action Program by the 60 Peace Corps Volunteers recommended in the Mission report should be begun because it is of critical importance to both the plebiscite attitudes and the overall advancement of the majority of Micronesians living on islands outside the district centers. The program as recommended (which excludes use of Peace Corps Volunteers as teachers in the school system) and the realities of Micronesian needs contain all the probabilities of a spectacular success for the Peace Corps.
- d. Preparations should be taken to offer Micronesian government employees and other wage earners two specific inducements to seek affiliation with the United States. First, Micronesian and United States personnel pay scales should be equalized. Since discrimination exists only in the professional and

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

16

17

higher administrative echelons, the cost would not be excessive. Second, rather than introduce a retirement program for Micronesian government employees, the Social Security system should be extended at least to all wage and salary earners in Micronesia (90% of these are directly or indirectly government employees) with possible consideration of a more general inclusion at the time.

15. The final factor of importance to the outcome of the plebiscite will be the Micronesian leader's insistence on knowing the proposed organization of Micronesia's post-plebiscite territorial government. The Micronesian leaders are intelligent and in many cases quite sophisticated, and they have been led to expect eventual independence; their willingness to produce a large popular vote for permanent affiliation will depend on the measure of self-government to be given them within the structure of territorial affiliation. This will also be of critical importance in the United Nations since the trusteeship agreement requires "independence or self-government" as the terminal objective. On the other hand, consideration must be given to the need for continued adequate control by the United States and the traditional attitude of the Congress toward the organization of territorial government. Also, there are clear limitations on the present-day ability of the Micronesians to govern themselves.

As the practical solution of this many-pronged dilemma, the Mission recommends a government organization for the Territory of Micronesia

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

that gives, on the one hand, a reasonable appearance of self-government through an elected Micronesian legislature and a Micronesian Chief Executive elected by the legislature, but on the other hand retains adequate control through the continuation of an appointed United States High Commissioner. (This arrangement is similar to that now operating in the administration of the Ryukyu Islands.) The powers of the High Commissioner could range from:

- (a) The minimum of being able to withhold all or any part of the United States funds going to the Micronesian government and the authority to declare martial law and assume all legislative and executive powers when the security of the United States so requires; to
- (b) the maximum additional of powers approving the election of the Chief Executive, vetoing all laws, confirming the Chief Executive's appointments of key department directors and dismissing the Chief Executive and dissolving the legislature at any time.

16. The Mission also recommends that, after the plebiscite, the Congress recognize the expressed desire of the people of Micronesia to affiliate by granting them the status of United States nationals but that action on an organic act be deferred until Congress judges that the development of the territory has sufficiently advanced, and the territorial legislature has had a chance to take action on the

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

16

19

local customs and laws which now protect the lands and businesses of Micronesians. Once the people of Micronesia have expressed their desire to affiliate, it is highly advisable that they feel that the question of their political future has been definitely resolved by having the Congress grant them without delay the status of U. S. nationals even though there may be subsequently protracted debate in the Security Council over the termination of the trusteeship agreement. It is worth pointing out that the extension of the status of U. S. nationals is legally possible under the trusteeship agreement which permits the extension of all the administering authority's laws to the Trust Territory, and that this could be the first in a series of steps that could make the trusteeship agreement an academic issue, even if the Security Council were not willing to terminate the trusteeship agreement.

17. Looking beyond the plebiscite and the subsequent achievement of territorial status for Micronesia, what seems to be the possible long-run political future of the area? First and most essential consideration might be given to the union of the two territories of Micronesia and Guam which would produce (a) economies of overhead in regular governmental administration, transportation and other facilities, (b) a more economically viable area along with a new stimulus to its economic development, and (c) the more rapid modernization and Americanization of this United States frontier in the Pacific. Such a union would involve a very delicate problem of

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

negotiation and would require consistent pressure. However, the payoff would be a substantial reduction in the need for appropriations as these deficit areas came to stand more and more on their own feet. (Part II of the Mission report includes recommendations for immediate action to develop the economic interrelationship between Guam and the Trust Territory.)

The even more distant problem of what ultimately, if anything, could or should be done with the unified territory of Guam and Micronesia is at present too much in the realm of clouded crystal ball gazing. Incorporation as a county into the State of Hawaii has been suggested in various places, and the Governor of Hawaii apparently feels that it is very much a possibility, but the Guamanian and Micronesian leaders' long-run political speculations definitely do not contemplate this degree of absorption and loss of political independence. Furthermore, the ultimate status of this territory may very well not be decided separately but as part of a general solution devised by the United States for all our remaining territories.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

16

21

Part II. The Capital Investment Program for Overall Development

1. Until fiscal years 1963 and 1964, when the Congress authorized an appropriation of \$17.5 million for the Trust Territory and appropriated \$15 million for each of those years, the level of United States appropriations for Micronesia had averaged slightly under \$7 million annually. Outside of new transportation facilities, few new capital investments were possible within this budget and those were achieved at the expense of an overall net capital disinvestment-- that is, by permitting the deterioration of buildings, machinery and public facilities. The running down and eventual destruction of much of the physical plant inherited from the Japanese and Navy administrations, which is amply evident in all the districts, has proved to be a very expensive "economy".

2. The decision by the United States to bring about the permanent affiliation of Micronesia requires the formulation of programs that will have both the maximum political impact in the plebiscite and will also advance the Micronesians in the long-run as rapidly as possible toward satisfactory living standards. A successful initiation of the economic development of the area is critical not only to the plebiscite and the living standards of the people who would become United States nationals but also to eventually relieving the United States of the financial burden of providing those living standards.

3. The bulk of the increased funds in fiscal years 1963 and 1964 is being used in a program just starting for the construction and operation

CONFIDENTIAL

of an expanded and accelerated elementary school system. In view of the remarkable degree to which educational opportunities are almost desperately wanted by all classes of Micronesians (including surprisingly the most traditional-minded clan chiefs) this priority of funds was exactly right by every criterion of United States objectives.

4. The Mission found, however, an unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Trust Territory government with respect to the development of the overall size and the components of an integrated capital investment and operating program (including the educational sector) that would meet Trust Territory needs in the framework of United States objectives. The High Commissioner himself believes that the \$57 million long-range capital program briefly presented by him to the House Interior Committee last year was not based on an adequate study of sectoral needs and priorities within those sectors to achieve the most favorable developmental and political impact.

5. The Mission members therefore proceeded within the short time available to identify the specific sectoral social and economic capital need and feasibilities in the survey of each of the six districts. Simultaneously, the Mission members surveyed the policies and administrative problems specific to each of the sectors and those that could probably arise in connection with an overall capital investment and development program. The Mission then worked out the overall priorities and their interrelationship and formulated the optimal program it judged

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

23

(16)

to be a feasible and efficient maximum, given the differing district labor availabilities and other resources. This maximum program totals \$43 million of capital investment over the four fiscal years from 1965 through 1968 with annual operating costs ascending from \$14.5 million in 1965 to \$15.9 million in 1966, \$18.5 million in 1967 and \$20.2 million in 1968. The Mission also presents, at the other end of the scale, the minimum program it believes sufficient to achieve United States political and developmental objectives which involves somewhat inferior educational and other standards and slower economic development. The minimum program totals \$34 million of capital investment over the four-year period and somewhat lower operating costs than the maximum program.

6. To look at it in various perspectives, the maximum program is a small program, except in education, relative to the investment made by the Japanese government before World War II. The \$360 average per capita annual expenditure that it represents is not very meaningful in the Trust Territory with its 81,000 people scattered through a vast area, but it is closer to the small per capita expenditure of Britain and France in their Pacific colonies (under \$60) than it is to the high per capita expenditure (\$1,300) of small Denmark for the 23,000 inhabitants of Greenland. Also, in view of our political objectives, the program should be viewed in relation to the Micronesians' average per capita income of about \$80 per year-- the equivalent of \$36 in 1939 prices-- compared to the comparable 1939 Micronesian average of

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

about \$100. Given the rate of increase in the population of Microneisa (about 3.5 percent annually) and the almost negligible impact of current technical assistance efforts, the economic development problem will not be solved except with some such capital investment program such as that presented in the report.

7. The sectoral breakdown of the optimal capital investment program from 1965 through 1968 includes:

Education	\$ 9.9 million
Health	2.4 "
Political development	0.4 "
Public safety and judiciary	0.9 "
Economic Development Fund	5.0 "
Transportation	1.0 "
Communication and radio	2.7 "
Public Works	13.5 "
Equipment replacement	2.5 "
Housing assistance	1.2 "

The small percentage of the proposed program devoted to economic development projects-- which would be administered through a recommended Economic Development Fund-- is due to some extent to the anticipated response of private Micronesian and United States capital. However, it is primarily a reflection of the Trust Territory's very limited ability to use

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

25

(16)

such funds effectively, given its meager production resources and tiny, dispersed markets. The limited prospects for the growth of the private economy dictate that for the foreseeable future this will continue to be a deficit area notwithstanding the development that will result from the proposed program. Prospects would be brighter, and the post-1968 need for subsidization reduced if Washington would be willing to cancel United States import duties on processed fish (a privilege enjoyed by American Samoa) and to eliminate, after the plebiscite, entry restrictions (except in the Kwajalein area) on Japanese businessmen, technicians and fishing vessels. And, in the still more distant future, although not now foreseeable, what looks like a "Micronesian Folly"-- justifiable only for its strategic value-- may very well develop into a viable economy based on American residents and tourists.

The large part of the capital investment program, and the even larger part of the annual operating program, devoted to education reflect the acute need and the critical importance of that program. But, given the limitations on the feasible rate of economic development, it also poses a dilemma. Modern education, particularly secondary education, will create a demoralizing unemployment problem as graduates refuse to return to their primitive outlying lands and to the extent that they are not aided to continue on to college. It is essential that the safety valve of legally unlimited (and possibly financially-aided) immigration

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

to the United States be established. Fortunately, that would come to pass when the Micronesians are given United States national status, if not sooner.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

27

(16)

Part III. Administration in the Trust Territory

1. The Mission regrets to report that a major obstacle to the over-all development of the Trust Territory is the creaky functioning of the quasi-colonial bureaucracy in the Trust Territory government. Unqualified American officials with remarkably long periods of bureaucratic longevity, many from the days of Navy military government, are more the rule than the exception. There is a real and present danger that increased appropriations by the Congress will not be used with maximum effectiveness and that the Trust Territory Government cannot implement the programs needed in the area. Increased numbers of permanent personnel in the Trust Territory Government staff are assumed by too many department heads in too many cases to constitute the needed "expansion of programs".

2. The Mission believes that a new approach to territorial administration is required if the Executive and the Congress want results. This should be the conscious effort to utilize the services of other Federal agencies or to contract out the implementation of the new and expanded programs recommended in this report. Based on its survey the Mission is convinced that results will be quicker and the over-all and long-run costs of such a policy cheaper. For example, the Mission recommends that the recruitment of American teachers be provided for through a contract with the State of Hawaii, that the provision of American physicians be contracted for with "Medico", that a private consulting organization provide advisory services in connection with the

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

administration of the proposed Economic Development Fund and that the Immigration and Naturalization Service take over immigration functions in the area.

There has been sufficient exploration by the Mission to be reasonably sure of the general flexibility, and in most cases the particular willingness, of the suggested agencies and contractors to undertake those functions. Contract supervision will pose its own set of problems for the Trust Territory government, but it can handle these problems more readily. To charge the Trust Territory government with the task of implementing with its own staff a relatively large and complicated program will not only involve many years' delay and much waste, but will saddle that government (and the United States) with the costs of permanently swollen bureaucracy necessarily recruited in many cases without full qualifications owing to the pressure of time. The need for many of these contractual services will disappear as certain programs are completed and others are increasingly staffed by qualified Micronesians.

3. The Trust Territory governmental organization of functional departments at headquarters in Saipan and in the six district administrations headed by district administrators is basically sound. However, there is a serious problem of communication between headquarters departments and their district counterparts partially arising from the over-centralization of authority in the High Commissioner's office. Essentially, the High Commissioner uses his department heads as staff officers, and

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

29

they have no real operating authority delegated to them, nor are they permitted to deal directly with their district counterparts nor with the district administrators. Furthermore, it is alleged that the district administrators frequently alter professional technical policies and programs. The Mission believes that in the interests of better administration of both the pre-plebiscite "master plan" and the particular nature of the post-plebiscite territorial government, that the delegation of powers by the High Commissioner to his department heads be permanently clarified. The headquarters department directors should be given true line responsibility, beginning with Departments of Education, Health and Agriculture, and a management specialist should be sent to the Trust Territory to spell out the specific steps to accomplish this objective.

4. Budgeting in the Trust Territory government is simply a means of setting a ceiling on expenditures rather than a planning mechanism through which programs are developed and carried on effectively. There are numerous and serious deficiencies in both budget formulation and execution, and the accounting of expenditures. The Mission recommends various specific measures among which are requiring the full funding of construction projects starting in the FY 1965 budget and separate accounting for business-service operations including payment for such services as it receives.

5. Due to the long supply lines back to the United States and inadequate funds, the Mission found serious supply deficiencies (particularly in medical supplies and spare parts) at various points

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

30

(16)

through the system. The Mission recommends certain funding and management actions.

6. Under United Nations pressure and our own response to it, the policy of replacing American officials with Micronesians has been pressed to the point of using poorly qualified Micronesians. The Mission has investigated various possible training programs to meet this problem and makes specific recommendations regarding training for public administrators, teachers and medical practitioners.

7. The Mission recommends in regard to American personnel that minimum professional qualifications be formulated, that the Department of Interior adopt a compulsory rotation program and that the directors of education, public health and engineering and construction be upgraded.

8. The ultimate objective should be a single personnel system where American and Micronesian officials in similar positions receive equal basic pay. In the interim and as a measure to reduce friction and encourage Micronesians to complete their full education, the Mission recommends the adoption of a new transitional schedule in the Micronesian pay scale for senior professional officials who meet every qualification requirement for comparable grades in the Federal Civil Service. Once a unified personnel system is established and the Social Security system is extended to Territorial employees, the new American employees entering after that date should have Territorial-employee status rather than Federal employee status, unless they are detailed from a Federal agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

31

16

9. The policy and administrative relationship between Washington, especially the Department of Interior, and the Trust Territory government must be sharply improved. There has been, on the part of Washington, both insufficient guidance as to new policies and program objectives and a lack of review in depth of the Trust Territory government's administrative implementation of them. A major reason seems to have been the tradition of treating the Trust Territory government somewhat as a sovereign foreign government. This is in the Mission's opinion an unnecessary and inadvisable interpretation of the administering power's role in the Trust Territory. One important example of these deficiencies is the lack of familiarity by many high officials in the Trust Territory with NASM 145 and the marked failure of that Presidential policy statement to have sufficient impact on Trust Territory government policy. To correct the general problem, the Mission recommends:

a. The Task Force created by NASM 145 should continue up through the plebiscite as a program and policy advisory group to the Secretary of the Interior. They should be involved in the adoption of a "master plan" of priority programs and periodic review in Washington of the progress of these programs as well as approving any later modifications.

b. Annual visits of an evaluation team to the Trust Territory to ascertain by field inspections that the "master plan" is being implemented in accordance with the terms of reference approved by Washington. The team should serve the Secretary of the Interior,

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

32

16

but the Task Force might aid the Secretary of the Interior in nominating the membership of the team, and should of course have full access to the report of the team for such action as it considers appropriate. If the team's annual visits were to coincide with the Trust Territory government's budget formulation, it would further insure the implementation of the "master plan" and would facilitate the more intensive budget examination by Interior that is needed.

c. The High Commissioner should be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior rather than the President partially because of certain legal anomalies involved in the position being filled through a Presidential appointment, but primarily to focus responsibility on the Secretary for the continuing guidance of the administration of the Trust Territory.

d. The Secretary of Interior should issue an order clarifying the exact powers delegated to the High Commissioner and those reserved to the Secretary in accordance with the draft appended to the Mission report.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FILE COPY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 25, 1963

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR

SUBJECT: NSAM 268

Transmitted herewith is NSAM 268
which was signed this morning by the President.

The President has indicated that prior
to any public announcement or other action, he would
appreciate being informed of the recommendations of
the Departments concerned with respect to the fixing
of a date for a plebiscite and the public announcement
thereof.

Michael V. Forrestal
Michael V. Forrestal

Copy furnished:

- The Secretary of Defense
- The Secretary of Health, Education & Welfare
- The Director, Bureau of the Budget
- The Director, Agency for International Development
- The Director, Peace Corps

cc:

- Mr. Bundy ✓
- Mr. Forrestal
- Mr. Johnson
- NSC Files

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State and WH Guidelines
By *MMK* NARA, Date *2/15/96*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 25, 1963

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 268

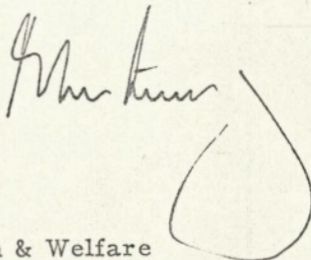
TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Interior

SUBJECT: Report of the Survey Mission to the Trust
Territory of the Pacific Islands

The Mission has submitted its report to me covering its survey of the political, economic and social problems of the people of the Trust Territory. The report contains recommendations concerning programs and policies to implement the policy established in NSAM 145, dated April, 1962.

The Departments of State and Interior in cooperation with other departments and agencies of the Government as appropriate, are requested to develop and carry out necessary plans and programs to carry out recommendations in the report that are feasible and acceptable for implementation.

Please report to me by November 31 on the actions taken or contemplated with respect to the report.



Copy furnished:

The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of Health, Education & Welfare
The Director, Bureau of the Budget
The Director, Agency for International Development
The Director, Peace Corps

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ November 4, 1963

(on orig.)

*MVF - OK -
you take
it in
refg.*

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE PRESIDENT

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

The following are attached for your consideration:

1. A proposed letter from you to Tony Solomon thanking him for his Report on the Trust Territory.
2. A proposed letter from you to Secretary Udall implementing the recommendation in the Report that authority over the U. S. High Commissioner be placed squarely with the Secretary of the Interior.
3. A report on the outbreak of polio in the Marshall Islands in January of this year.

You may recall that one of Solomon's recommendations was that the Peace Corps be invited to participate in the new program for the Trust Territory. You may wish to call Sarge Shriver, encouraging him to give favorable consideration to the Department of Interior's suggestions, or, alternatively I could call him myself to tell him that you favor getting the Peace Corps into the area.

MVForrestal

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
<i>State + WH Guidelines</i>
By <i>pmk</i> NARA, Date <i>12/13/96</i>

Dear Mr. Solomon:

I have received your Report by the U. S. Government Survey Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It is a fine job and I deeply appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues in doing a thorough study of this area, which is of such importance to the United States.

I am sure that the Government will be calling on you for other services; and I hope that when this happens, you will be able to respond as promptly and as effectively as you have this time.

Sincerely,

**Mr. Anthony Solomon
3316 Volta Place, N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.**

Dear Secretary Udall:

In view of the full authority and responsibility I have delegated to you to administer the affairs of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I am in agreement with the recent recommendations of the Survey Mission to the Trust Territory contained in their October 9, 1963 report that your authority should extend without question over the U. S. High Commissioner of the Trust Territory.

Therefore, in the future I will expect the Secretary of the Interior to exercise full control over the appointment, direction and removal of such U. S. High Commissioners.

Sincerely,

**The Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.**

Report on Poliomyelitis in the Trust Territory (1958-1963)

On January 21, 1958 an outbreak of poliomyelitis was reported at the Majuro Intermediate School in the Marshall Islands. Initially, five cases were diagnosed clinically but the incidence increased to thirty-six cases by January 24, and the final figure reached sixty-three by January 27.

A clinical diagnosis of poliomyelitis was made in each of the above reported cases and treatment rendered, but attempts to obtain virological confirmation were unsuccessful. One death and one residual paralytic case resulted from this outbreak, and a Salk vaccine immunization program was undertaken following this incident with each resident of Majuro having received two doses of vaccine. However, the program was halted during the latter part of 1959 due to a lack of funds to purchase the necessary vaccine and to administer such an extensive preventive measure.

From 1958 to the outbreak of January 12, 1963 there were no reports of paralytic poliomyelitis in the Trust Territory. There also were no reports to this office regarding any plans for the institution of a preventive program.

On January 4, 1963 a nine year old American girl, a two year resident of Kwajalein Island, developed poliomyelitis after having returned from a trip to Texas where a previous epidemic had been reported. A Marshallese youth, with parents who worked on Kwajalein, developed poliomyelitis symptoms and spread the disease to Ebeye, an island three miles away, where all of the Marshallese employees live. Reported cases mushroomed throughout the Marshalls District as carriers traveled from island to island. The toll was 212 clinical cases of poliomyelitis and 11 deaths, the onset occurring January 12, 1963 on Ebeye.

Trust Territory medical personnel, with the invaluable assistance of the military and other U. S. Government agencies, voluntary organizations and private industry located in the area, brought the epidemic under control. An extensive rehabilitation program is currently underway, and a mass immunization program is almost completed. The Trust Territory Government is presently formulating plans for the development of continuing immunization programs to prevent the spread of other preventable communicable diseases.

S
NSAM

4 November 1963

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I transmit herewith a letter addressed to you from the President concerning your authority with respect to the U. S. High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

While the President was considering this letter he also read Mr. Carver's report on the poliomyelitis epidemic in the Trust Territory. He dictated a memorandum which you will receive shortly. I thought it would help if I also enclosed a copy of the report he refers to.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Forrestal

The Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

November 4, 1963

Dear Secretary Udall:

In view of the full authority and responsibility I have delegated to you to administer the affairs of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I am in agreement with the recent recommendations of the Survey Mission to the Trust Territory contained in their October 9, 1963 report that your authority should extend without question over the U. S. High Commissioner of the Trust Territory.

Therefore, in the future I will expect the Secretary of the Interior to exercise full control over the appointment, direction and removal of such U. S. High Commissioners.

Sincerely,

(Signed) John F. Kennedy

**The Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.**

cc: Bur. of Budget

**High Commissioner
Sec. Carver**

Report on Poliomyelitis in the Trust Territory (1958-1963)

On January 21, 1958 an outbreak of poliomyelitis was reported at the Majuro Intermediate School in the Marshall Islands. Initially, five cases were diagnosed clinically but the incidence increased to thirty-six cases by January 24, and the final figure reached sixty-three by January 27.

A clinical diagnosis of poliomyelitis was made in each of the above reported cases and treatment rendered, but attempts to obtain virological confirmation were unsuccessful. One death and one residual paralytic case resulted from this outbreak, and a Salk vaccine immunization program was undertaken following this incident with each resident of Majuro having received two doses of vaccine. However, the program was halted during the latter part of 1959 due to a lack of funds to purchase the necessary vaccine and to administer such an extensive preventive measure.

From 1958 to the outbreak of January 12, 1963 there were no reports of paralytic poliomyelitis in the Trust Territory. There also were no reports to this office regarding any plans for the institution of a preventive program.

On January 4, 1963 a nine year old American girl, a two year resident of Kwajalein Island, developed poliomyelitis after having returned from a trip to Texas where a previous epidemic had been reported. A Marshallese youth, with parents who worked on Kwajalein, developed poliomyelitis symptoms and spread the disease to Ebeye, an island three miles away, where all of the Marshallese employees live. Reported cases mushroomed throughout the Marshalls District as carriers traveled from island to island. The toll was 212 clinical cases of poliomyelitis and 11 deaths, the onset occurring January 12, 1963 on Ebeye.

Trust Territory medical personnel, with the invaluable assistance of the military and other U. S. Government agencies, voluntary organizations and private industry located in the area, brought the epidemic under control. An extensive rehabilitation program is currently underway, and a mass immunization program is almost completed. The Trust Territory Government is presently formulating plans for the development of continuing immunization programs to prevent the spread of other preventable communicable diseases.

Polly Yates

November 4, 1963

Dear Mr. Solomon:

I have received your Report by the U. S. Government Survey Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It is a fine job and I deeply appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues in doing a thorough study of this area, which is of such importance to the United States.

I am sure that the Government will be calling on you for other services; and I hope that when this happens, you will be able to respond as promptly and as effectively as you have this time.

Sincerely,

**Mr. Anthony Solomon
3316 Volta Place, N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.**

Polly Yates

✓

S

November 6, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

I enclose a memorandum from the President addressed to you dated November 4, 1963. I believe that I have already sent your office a copy of the report to which the memorandum refers.

Michael V. Forrestal

Att.

cc: Polly Yates ✓
WH Central Files
Mr. Johnson
2 MVF

November 4, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

I am shocked at the report on the spread of polio in the Trust territories. It seems to me that this is inexcusable. I would like to have an investigation made into why there were inadequate funds in 1958 for administering preventive medicine and why no action was undertaken between 1958 and 1963 when the spread of the disease again became acute. How much would it have cost to have taken precautionary steps. Is there a difference in treatment for United States citizens in this country and the people for whom the United States is responsible in the Trust territory.

Whose responsibility was it to initiate an appropriate program? In short, I would like a complete investigation into the reason why the United States government did not meet its responsibility in this area.

Would you expedite this matter.

(Signed) John F. Kennedy

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Mr. Bundy
④

NSA M

December 18, 1963

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL HOLDERS:

"A Report by the U. S. Government Survey Mission
to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands",
Volume II

In accordance with the request of the Department of State, con-
curred in by the Department of the Interior, Volume II of the
above-referenced Report has been upgraded to CONFIDENTIAL.
This Report will not be released for public dissemination.

Charles E. Johnson

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NSC Control No. 149

DECLASSIFIED

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By mmk, NARA, Date 12/13/96