

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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JAN 29 1968  
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*In need to do what is necessary*

TO : IO - Mr. Sisco

DATE: January 29, 1968  $\frac{03}{8}$

FROM : UNP - Elizabeth Ann Brown *WAB*

SUBJECT: Need for Forward Motion on Micronesia's Political Future

Although we do not propose any action by you during the next two or three weeks, we want to alert you to several steps that will have to be taken early this year to ensure success of our plans for the political future of Micronesia. Over the course of debates within the Government, the State Department has committed itself to the proposition that so long as the USG moves promptly we can safely risk offering the people of Micronesia the alternative of independence without jeopardizing our objective of establishing a lasting political association between the Trust Territory and the U.S. Failure to get on with our plans this year could result in confusion and complicating developments within Micronesia perhaps stimulated from abroad; e.g. certain Micronesians might take the lead and come up with unhelpful ideas; outside influences ranging from Japan to the Soviet Union might be magnified; and Congressional suspicions about the danger of offering the alternative of independence would be deepened.

Two actions will be necessary to obtain Congressional support for the proposed status commission and referendum.

The first will be high-level, coordinated lobbying by State, Interior, and Defense for support from key Congressional figures. Although some duplication would be helpful especially with the Chairmen of the Interior Committees, we have in mind that Mr. Katzenbach would concentrate on the Foreign Relations Committees, Mr. Nitze on the Armed Services Committees, and Mr. Udall on the Interior Committees.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B. H. BAAS DATE 3/25/87

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The second action will be to ensure that the Interior Committees are properly educated about the legal constraints within which we must operate. As you will recall, our arguments over this subject with the Department of Interior caused long delays last year, and the question will undoubtedly crop up again in Committee hearings. Unlike his staff, Secretary Udall has played it very straight and seems prepared to have Mr. Katzenbach or some other senior State Department officer explain this aspect of the problem to Congressional Committees. We will have to keep pushing ourselves forward, however, and if Mr. Katzenbach does not wish to testify himself, I believe that you and Mr. Meeker should explain the Department's views in the context of our treaty obligations to Congress.

The immediate situation in the Congress is as follows. Many members of the House Subcommittee are now in Micronesia, as are some Senators. These individuals ought to be back very soon, and we will consult Interior about the best way to proceed.

Note - An example of complications which multiply with delay is the establishment of a status commission by the Congress of Micronesia. This Micronesian group has begun a study of all political alternatives open to the Territory and may become an unguided missile. We have suggested to Ruth Van Cleve that we had better talk to members of the Micronesian Commission well before they make firm recommendations in the hope of educating them to political realities in Washington and New York. She agrees and plans to go to Micronesia for this purpose in the spring. If her plans work out, she wants to take along someone from the State Department.

*Ward is going on the*

*TC visiting mission, this might mesh.  
DWP*

CC: IO - Mr. Allen

*WAS*

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