

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

7487

EX-5294

(2198)
WPA
para
R 03
8

TO : IO/UNP - William H. Gleysteen

DATE: July 10, 1968

FROM : IO/UNP - Donald F. McHenry *DMH*

file: TTPI - 8

SUBJECT: State-Defense-Interior Meeting to Plan Tactics for House Consideration of the TTPI Status Commission Bill.

At 3 p.m. on July 9, I attended a three-hour working level meeting with representatives of Interior and Defense to discuss next moves on the TTPI Status Commission bill. The meeting began with a comparison of notes on the outcome of the Katzenbach-Nitze-Udall-Aspinall discussions of last week. Much of the information was second- and third-hand and somewhat contradictory. Defense and Interior believe that Aspinall is prepared to hold a closed hearing on or about July 26 on the Status Commission bill provided Udall submits a statement by July 12 which would persuade Aspinall that a hearing would be worthwhile.

It was indicated that our information was equally imprecise but that we had the impression that Aspinall's willingness to hold a hearing was slightly less conditional. We had misgivings about the lateness of the hearings and the conditions which Aspinall seemed to be imposing but believed that we had no alternative but to go through the hearings in good faith and put forward the best case we could.

Discussion then centered on the draft Udall statement which Interior had prepared and submitted to Defense and State earlier in the day. Two major problems became apparent:

1. State and Interior still sharply disagree on the "independence or self-government" status required to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement;
2. Interior wishes to soft-pedal the independence option, largely on the grounds that defense requirements are such that we would not follow through if independence were selected by the Micronesians. On this point Interior finally backtracked, but I believe this point will remain sticky. Quite helpful was Harry Holland's emphasis that while Defense thought

SECRET

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

05 422117

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B.H. BOAS DATE 3/15/87

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE _____

TS AUTH. REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE

RELEASE DENIED

EXEMPTIONS _____



SECRET

SECRET

2

the islands essential their practical utility would be considerably reduced if retained against the islander's wishes.

Both Holland and I expressed concern that Aspinall was asking us to perform precisely those tasks which we all agreed should be left to the Status Commission. Ideally it would be preferable to draft a general statement which, while citing some questions which would have to be resolved by a Status Commission, would leave the specifics to the Commission itself. I doubt, however, that this would be acceptable to Mr. Aspinall and suggested that he would immediately ask specific questions, such as the need for an elected governor, and that it would be necessary for Interior and State to agree on an answer. Otherwise we would be confirming Aspinall's view that the Executive Branch was itself in disagreement.

Interior still hopes to give Aspinall an agreed statement by Friday, July 12. We undertook to review the Interior draft and to make specific suggestions for changes. If the statement is to remain general, I believe it will be possible to come up with a least common denominator type draft. This still leaves us with the answers to specific questions and this problem will have to be flagged for Mr. Katzenbach so that he can discuss it with Udall prior to any hearing.

SECRET

SECRET

05 422118