

10-0

# AIRGRAM EXCISE

E B1  
A2  
491  
19 PAC TT  
03  
7

Original to be Filed in \_\_\_\_\_ Decentralized Files.

FILE DESIGNATION

RM/R	REP	AF
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA

CA-5708

SECRET

NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : CANBERRA, LONDON, WELLINGTON

INFO : SUVA, USUN

COPY NO. 1, SERIES A

FROM : Department of State

DATE: Oct 20 3 20 PM '69

SUBJECT : Future of the TTPI: Discussions with Micronesian Delegation

REF :

LIMDIS

Department September 30 called in British (Spendlove), Australian (Smith) and New Zealand (Plimmer and Williams) Embassies to bring them up to date on US Government position regarding TTPI just prior to discussions with Micronesians which started October 1 in Washington.

Department officers reviewed current situation, stressing that it was not that we had much new information to offer, but that discussions we had mentioned earlier were about to begin. We said US Congress was pressing for resolution of problem hoping to have legislation which could be introduced this year defining new status for Micronesia in association with the United States. This optimum schedule had already slipped with delay of a month in Micronesian arrival. Nevertheless, Congressional interest in key committees was high and House Interior Committee Chairman Aspinall was reportedly planning hearings in the Territory on whatever legislation was introduced.

As for Executive Branch views, we said they could best be described as flexible. We just do not know how things will come out. The Executive found itself between the US Congress and the Micronesians and our problem was compounded by not having any firm idea of what the Micronesians were thinking --

SECRET

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

In  Out

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Hester DATE 3/17/89

RDS OF XDS NEXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

EX-105 EXISTING MARKING

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE IN PART

PLEASE IDENTIFY

DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION

FORM 4 63 DS 423

Drafted by:

IO:UNP:SRP/ale:jkb 10/15/69

Drafting Date:

Contents and Classification Controlled by IO:UNP - Arthur R. Day

Clearances:

IO:UNP - Mr. Frisbie

EA/ANZ - Mr. Moore

OS- 421590

SECRET

1969 OCT 20 PM 6 13

COPYFLO-PBB

DECLASSIFIED

CA-5708

SECRET

2

of what they wanted. In this connection we pointed out that Status Commission report not always clear and not entirely consistent in the positions it advocated. We said we were also uncertain as to the meaning of the Congress of Micronesia's delay in appointing a delegation and then at last minute postponing their trip for a month. With all of this uncertainty, we could not be more definite about where we were going, but once this round of talks was over we would hope to have a better idea and we would plan another meeting with the three Embassies.

Department officers also commented on timetable, pointing out much depended on the mandate of Micronesian delegation. If they were prepared for serious bargaining and ready to make decisions, things could move quite rapidly with plebiscite taking place perhaps as soon as a year from now. If, as we suspect, however, the Micronesians are primarily interested in listening -- in getting our ideas -- and then returning to the Territory to consider their position further, this optimum time schedule would most likely slip substantially. We pointed out such slippage in no way distressed us, since we felt that it was not only to be expected, but that extra time could be put to good use in Territory.

Finally, we touched on progress made in the program of reform and development highlighted by Secretary Hickel during his May trip to the Territory. We stressed that much of this effort was just now getting under way but that progress did seem to be being made in number of areas: (1) seabee teams were in area working on projects of Micronesian choosing and stressing training of Micronesians to carry on; (2) efforts were continuing on Micronization of the administration and a Micronesian had been appointed as District Administrator in the Marianas; (3) as a first step towards pay equalization, a ten percent pay increase for Micronesians had been requested; (4) a task force had been studying development and other problems in the Territory over the summer and had submitted recommendation to High Commissioner and Congress of Micronesia.

In discussion which ensued the following additional points were raised:

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

OS-421591

SECRET

3

1. Two Delegations -- We said the Micronesian Delegation consisted of ten members, five from each of two houses of Congress of Micronesia. It included all members of Status Commission as finally composed and would be chaired by Senator Sali and Congressman Silk. As for US Delegation, it would be chaired by Interior, with State participation and observers from Defense and US Congress.

2. Nature of Discussions -- We presumed that discussions would center on defining the two points raised in the Status Commission report -- i.e., the form of self-government and the form of free association. The end product would be a piece of legislation which would establish the relationship with the United States. Although the schedule of events was not firmly established, we said we expected the US Congress to approve the legislation first after which referendum would be held in Micronesia.

4. Micronesian Thinking -- Plimmer drew attention to the August 27 article in Christian Science Monitor (see enclosure 1) and asked whether it was accurate. We replied that it was a mixture of truth, half-truth and some inaccuracies. We felt basic theme of article -- that Micronesians felt they were suddenly being rushed into something and were trying to put on the brakes -- was probably true. We pointed out that this was quite natural in view of our inaction in the past several years while Micronesians moved rapidly ahead. The sudden movement on our part was bound to produce certain nervousness amongst the Micronesians. We said that the statement that

DECLASSIFIED

CA-5708

SECRET

4

Secretary Hickel had indicated an intent to absorb Micronesia into a political association with US in a unilateral move was quite inaccurate. We reminded three Embassy representatives that the Micronesian Political Status Commission had issued its preliminary statement favoring an association with the US and that Secretary Hickel's statement was only in response to this apparent Micronesian preference.

5. Flexibility of Approach -- Plimmer said that in New Zealand's experience it was most important not to rule out alternatives too early in the discussions. Even if we were not considering independence, he felt we should not take a firm stand against such a choice early in the discussions. Further, he thought we should, if at all possible, remain flexible on an "opting-out provision" and on block grants of funds.

We explained we did not intend to take strong position against independence. Rather we intended to argue that the Micronesians' first choice was an association; that we should work on devising such a status first; and that once that is done we could consider what other choices should or need be offered. As for "opting out", while we hoped to avoid the issue, our room for maneuver, as we had stated before, was very limited and we might have to take a fairly clear position in opposition if it were raised. Finally, on funding, we had developed a position which would allow for payment of a matching amount equal to locally raised revenues which would be available for their appropriation without strings. Although this was far short of the New Zealand/Cook Islands arrangement, it was a significant step forward.

6. Readiness for Self-Government -- Spendlove asked just how ready we thought the Micronesians were for self-government. Did we plan significant changes from the current status to one which we would call self-government? We said that we did plan a change -- just how much, we would have to work out with the Micronesians. As for their readiness, that would depend on how you defined self-government and readiness-- both of which were terms with many meanings. We did feel that the Micronesians realized that they would need help for some time and would not only accept but would desire the continued presence of advisors and technical assistance. We added we were not planning any major steps toward self-

DECLASSIFIED SECRET

OS-421593

DECLASSIFIED

CA-5708

SECRET

5

government -- aside from continuing Micronization and other measures outlined by Secretary Hickel for involving the people in decision-making process -- prior to the termination of the trusteeship.

Comment: Although all three Embassy representatives probed quite deeply and at some length at our position, they remained sympathetic to our problems and appreciative of our frankness. They obviously will be most interested in our report on the results of discussions.

ROGERS

Enclosure:

1. Christian Science Monitor article, August 27, 1969.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

05- 421594