

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE _____
 TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
 ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
 DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
 RELEASE DENIED
 PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

73D17
 Box 3684
 E.A.P.

2293

Memo 03/27
 R

January 29, 1970

MEMORANDUM

TO: EA - Mr. Marshall Green

THROUGH: EA - Ambassador Winthrop G. Brown

FROM: EA/ANZ - Robert W. Moore

SUBJECT: Micronesia -- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

1. You attended a meeting December 15 at which Mr. De Palma briefed the Secretary on the TTPI in preparation for his December 16 meeting with the Secretaries of Interior and Defense. At the latter meeting it was to be decided, in the light of our first round of negotiations with the Micronesians in October, how the USG should proceed from that point. (The main issue arising out of the first round of talks was how land questions should be resolved. The Micronesians insisted that they should have the final say in all land questions. Secretary Hickel suggested we go along with them on this, in exchange for a clear-cut Micronesian commitment to accept permanent association with the U. S. Secretary Hickel's proposal was challenged by representatives of both State and Defense, on the ground that our strategic need is such that we must reserve the right to take land for base facilities without risk of a Micronesian veto. EA concurred in this State/Defense position, of course, in view of the Bureau's interest in assuring access to possible alternative base facilities in the Western Pacific.)

2. On December 16, the Secretary met with Secretary Hickel, Dr. Kissinger and Assistant Secretary Nutter to discuss the future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The principal results of this

SECRET

0310507000

05-422315

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

2

meeting were: (a) rejection of the Interior proposal that the U. S. give up the right of eminent domain over land in return for a Micronesian agreement to permanent association with the U.S.; (b) agreement that the U. S. should now proceed at a more leisurely, normal pace and not rush into frantic negotiations, and (c) agreement that the U. S. should not offer the Micronesians the Constitutional Convention they seem to want, but should reconsider offering an Organic Act as the basis for our future negotiations. (Enclosure 1)

3. On the following day, December 17, the Interagency Working Group met and decided to offer the Micronesians the complete draft text of the Political Status Act (the revised Organic Act), amended to include: (a) our latest land proposal (which would provide for appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in cases of dispute); and (b) alternative proposals providing for Micronesian choice between an elected or appointed executive. This decision was approved by the Secretary on December 24. (Enclosure 2)

4. Assistant Secretary of the Interior Loesch visited Micronesia in early January and while there, left with the Political Status Commission copies of the Political Status Act (Organic Act). Loesch did not have time to discuss its contents with the Commission members. Since his return, the Interagency Group has met to receive a report of his trip. Loesch believes that if we are to have any chance of success we must accede to the Micronesian desire for a Constitutional Convention. After lengthy discussion, the Interagency Group agreed that this was probably the case but decided that for both tactical and substantive reasons we should try to obtain further information as to whether the Micronesians are thinking in terms of the same basic status for the TTPI as we have in mind. Loesch has, therefore, written to the Chairman of the Political Status Commission asking their views on the Political Status Act, saying that the U. S. cannot agree to a date for the next meeting with the Commission until the latter's views are known.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

OS-422316

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

3

(This meeting cannot be before the last half of March in any case because the UN Visiting Mission will be in the TTPI from February 11 to mid-March.) (Enclosure 3)

5. Comment. As you know, IO is the Bureau responsible for TTPI affairs in the Department. Since EA has an interest in the outcome of negotiations to establish a permanent status for the TTPI, however, ANZ keeps itself informed on the subject and will from time to time bring you up to date, as this memo is designed to do.

6. I believe things are going well from EA's point of view. The agreement among State, Interior and Defense that the USG will not negotiate away the right of eminent domain and thereby prejudice our access to land for bases, is good. The deliberately reduced pace of negotiations should also help to ensure that we (a) overlook nothing and (b) project a more dignified, effective negotiating posture to the Micronesians.

7. As I see it, there are two advantages to an Organic Act as opposed to a Constitutional Convention. With the former used as the basis for discussion, the USG will have more control over the content of the final act. If the U. S. permits a Constitutional Convention, we run the risk that the Micronesians will go off on a tack that we will not be able to reverse without having the cry of interference raised. The other advantage is that an Organic Act, which will be considered in the Congress of Micronesia, probably will give rise to more orderly public debate than would a Constitutional Convention.

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum, dated December 16, 1969 on the Future of the TTPI.
2. Memorandum from De Palma to the Secretary, dated December 19 requesting approval of the Political Status Act.
3. Report of Assistant Secretary Lohach's trip.

EA/ANZ:WVHall:rlw 1/29/70

SECRET

422317