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IO - Mr. De Rólan

UNP - John A. Armitage

Talking Points for Meeting with Secretaries this Afternoon

1. Land Issue

The primary purpose of the meeting of the Secretaries last December was to consider the land issue. The following summarizes the suggestions made then and subsequent developments:

At that meeting both the Secretary and Dr. Kissinger suggested that we prepare a further negotiating strategy on the land question based on (1) specifically defining our needs and at the appropriate moment informing the Micronesians of the results; and (2) agreeing that, if we needed further land we would be prepared to accept some kind of limit -- perhaps something like 10 percent in each district.

Since that time Defense has been examining these questions. They do expect to have a reasonably firm study of their needs finished by mid-summer, but they cannot say anything specific about these requirements at this time. They might, however, be able to make some general remarks about areas where they have no plans. Thus our land position remains essentially as it was when the Micronesians departed in October.

2. Differences Between the Two Bills

Should the Secretary question our statement that the status in both cases is essentially the same and that the offers of self-government are equal, you could highlight the following:

The essential elements necessary to protect US interests -- particularly strategic -- and federal supremacy are in both bills. In fact the Constitutional Convention Bill was first drafted by deleting those aspects of the Political Status Bill which were not essential -- which would have been subject

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[to negotiation and initiation if requested by the Micronesians. E.g., we were prepared to change the form of the government structure set forth in the Political Status Bill if the Micronesians so requested. We were only interested in the limits on the powers of that government -- and those limits are retained in the constitutional convention.]

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3. Micronesian Demand that Constitutional Convention be Basis of Talks

See second paragraph of Delegation Chairman Senator Sali's letter (Tab A of Briefing Memorandum).

4. Problems with Commonwealth

Discussed in detail on page 2 and 3 of Tab C of Briefing Memo. [In brief, there has been dispute as to whether the US Congress abdicated its power to legislate for Puerto Rico. An article providing that authority to the Congress is specified in our bill. Furthermore, our bill is not labeled as a "compact" as in the case of Puerto Rico, thus avoiding the implication of equality.]

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5. Dual Referendum Approach

See Tab E of the Briefing Memo for detailed discussion.

6. Congressional Consultations

[Should the Secretary ask about the differences on this issue between the Departments, you can say that Assistant Secretary Loesch is greatly concerned about Congressman Aspinall's reaction if he is not consulted prior to the Delegation's departure. Mr. Loesch appears willing, however, to accept the decision of the Under Secretaries.]

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For our part, we are seriously concerned that Mr. Aspinall's reaction, if informed in advance, would be quite negative and that he might act to prevent the Delegation's departure. Furthermore, if we went in spite of his wishes or offered the Constitutional Convention Bill after he had expressly rejected it, the resulting reaction could be even greater.]

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[If Mr. Loesch argues his position strongly and insists that he can handle Mr. Aspinall -- prevent any attempt to veto our position -- we would probably have to accede to his position, unless the White House representative demurred.]

If the Secretary should ask about the previous position on this matter, you should refer to the Under Secretaries meeting last August (report attached) which specifically decided to defer consulting Mr. Aspinall on the elected governor question (then and possibly now the critical issue) until after our meeting with the Micronesians in October when we hoped to have a better feel for their views. (Because of the inconclusive results of those meetings, such consultations have not yet taken place.)]

7. Previous High-Level Consideration and Decisions on Micronesia

We have attached the reports on the three high-level meetings on Micronesia in the past year -- April 1969, August 1969 and December 1969. The key points decided are listed below:

1. April 1969 - Under Secretaries Meeting - Recommendations referred to and approved by the President.
 1. High priority to extending sovereignty.
 2. Organic Act the best approach with Micronesian views included.
 3. Option of independence or opting out unacceptable.
 4. UN obligations, Congressional reluctance and need for Micronesian support all have to be weighed in deciding how much self-government.]
2. August 1969 - Under Secretaries Meeting - (report dated September 9)
 1. Reviewed and approved Political Status Bill except for executive.

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2. Department said: elective government essential; others pointed out Congressional objection. Risks of terminating Trusteeship Agreement with questionable compliance noted.

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3. December meeting - Secretaries Meeting - Your report of results.

- 1. Interior land position rejected -- i.e., cannot forego eminent domain.
- 2. Secretary and Kissinger urge further exploration on land to define needs and set outside limits.
- 3. Slow down -- don't make less advantageous agreement in interests of speed.
- 4. In brief discussion, opposed constitutional convention at that time -- both risks and failure to explore fully Organic Act approach cited.

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Note: Immediately after the December meeting, the Interagency Group, with the approval of the Secretary, authorized offering the Political Status Bill -- with a choice between an elected versus an appointed executive -- to the Micronesians.

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