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NO. CA-3446

**HANDLING INDICATOR**

**TO :** CANBERRA, LONDON, WELLINGTON

**INFO :** SUVA, USUN

**FROM :** Department of State

**SUBJECT :** Future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands: Saipan Discussions  
CA-2648, May 13, 1970

**REF :** **LIMDIS**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE FEB. 25 1987

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On June 8 Department (IO/UNP) briefed British (Boyd), Australia (Smith), and New Zealand (Williams) Embassies on Saipan talks, along following lines:

Micronesians had opened talks with statement of four "non-negotiable" principles:

- (a) Sovereignty resides in people of Micronesia;
- (b) Right of self-determination includes choice of independence or free association with any state;
- (c) Right to adopt, amend and revoke own constitution; and
- (d) Right to terminate unilaterally any association entered into.

US then set forth its statement of principles and draft constitutional convention bill as discussed reair.

The Micronesians were not overly receptive to US offer, pointing out that it was not consistent with their "non-negotiable principles" nor with the "UN definition" of free association. The US denied the existence of any such "UN definition" and stressed belief that our

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offer, if accepted by Congress of Micronesia and approved by Micronesian people in a referendum, would fully meet the requirements of the Trusteeship Agreement.

The basic issues still at impasse when the talks adjourned were the questions of eminent domain and of unilateral termination of any association. The Micronesians will report our offer to the Congress of Micronesia, which convenes on July 13. They probably will report without recommendation one way or the other but with the comment that the US was unwilling to grant "free association" as they define it.

Department officers stressed the results of the meeting in terms of clearing the air and developing a degree of specificity on both sides which had not previously existed. They also noted that most of the Micronesian delegation obviously contemplates a continuing close association with the US regardless of the terms of that association.

Department officers emphasized that US and Micronesian delegations had agreed that first public announcement of US offer should come in Micronesian delegation's report to the Congress of Micronesia and that both sides would respect confidential nature of talks until that time. US, therefore, has declined to discuss the talks in the UN Trusteeship Council and has briefed the key Congressional committees in executive session only.

In response to Boyd's question, Department officers stated that status will probably be a Micronesian election issue in November in some districts but that the US does not wish to become involved in making it an election issue.

In response to Williams' question, Department officers expressed the belief that the Congress of Micronesia will probably either extend the life of the present delegation or set up a new one with largely the same membership.

Williams also asked about working relationship of Micronesians with Professor Davidson. Department officers replied that it was our impression that relationship was smooth but that it was clearly a case of the Micronesians telling Davidson what they wanted him to do and asking for advice on specific points but retaining the power of decision in their own hands.

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