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September 1, 1970

MEMORANDUM

TO: EA - Mr. Marshall Green

THROUGH: EA - Mr. James Wilson
EA - Ambassador Winthrop G. Brown

FROM: EA/ANZ - James V. Martin, Jr.

SUBJECT: Micronesia -- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

As you know, the Congress of Micronesia has rejected the U. S. offer of Commonwealth Status for Micronesia and has continued to insist upon a "free association" with the U. S. as its preferred future status. Mr. Wilson has asked if the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which is similar to our offer to Micronesia, included provision for changing, at a future date, its Commonwealth association with the U. S.

The Puerto Rican Constitution, which was promulgated in 1952, does not specifically provide for the possibility of a future change in the association between Puerto Rico and the U. S. As the attached documents will show, however, the right of the Puerto Rican people to consider such a change was considered implicit in the agreement. In the UN resolution recognizing that Puerto Rico had become an "autonomous entity" on which the U. S. would no longer have to report in the UN, there is the statement "in the eventuality that either of the parties to the mutually agreed association may desire any change in the terms of this association....." And in the 459th Plenary Meeting of the UNGA, in 1953, Ambassador Lodge was authorized to say on behalf

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of President Eisenhower that "if at any time the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico adopts a resolution in favor of more complete or even absolute independence, he will immediately thereafter recommend to Congress that such independence be granted."

This sort of implicit agreement might well be the means for breaking the present deadlock over the future status of Micronesia.

Attachments:

1. Cessation of the Transmission of Information on Puerto Rico.
2. Excerpt from record of 459th Plenary Meeting, UNGA.

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