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09720

Subject: USG Position on Free Association
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REF: USUN 1408 (272200Z May 71) NOTAL

HICOMTERPACIS FOR COLEMAN, CRALEY AND POLAD ONLY

COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

that
1. Interagency Group (IAG) concerned ~~with~~ Micronesians,
particularly members of Joint Status Committee, might
draw incorrect impression from USDEL's response to
UK question re U.S. acceptance of "free association"(reftel)
as distorted by MNS release. Specifically we do not wish
statement to be read as USG acceptance of "four principles"
and other aspects of Micronesian definition of term

(3)

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"free association." At same time, in seeking avoid such interpretation, IAG would not wish to state explicitly that "four principles" are unacceptable.

2. Following is full text (unessential words omitted) of Ambassador Finger's statement:

"With respect to question whether USG would consider solution based on self-government in free associatooon Rep with United States; I believe statement of U.S./yesterday indicated that this would be so. We are still in process of negotiations, of course. It is difficult at this stage to spell out precise terms. But we do consider ourselves to be bound by Article 76, and particularly paragraph b, of Charter, which refers to progressive development towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to particular circumstances of each

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Territory and its peoples and freely expressed wishes of peoples concerned. Therefore, I believe we could give affirmative answer to that question."

3. We believe that Micronesians present at Trusteeship Council (TC) and other Council members appreciated careful wording of Ambassador Finger's reply and unlikely to misinterpret. We ~~XXXX~~ also ~~XXXX~~ sought to clarify U.S. position further in closing statement. Therefore, most likely source of problem is out-of-context reading in Micronesia or possibly Honolulu or Guam press.

4. In discussing USG position on future status at ~~XXX~~ TC you can, as advisable, draw on Ambassador Phillips' opening statement ~~(XXXXXX being sent you airmail)~~ and on closing remarks which Ambassador Bennett ~~XXXXXX~~ made ⁴ Friday, June 5, (both texts in PV's being sent you airmail). However, if Ambassador Finger's statement is being

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publicly or privately cited as evidence of USG acceptance of Micronesian definition of free association, or if questions raised as to meaning of his remarks, you should in low-key fashion point out key elements of Finger response as follows: (a) It was specifically tied to Ambassador Phillips' opening remarks which said only that we had studied Micronesian position, considered our own accordingly, remained optimistic re possibility of mutual agreement, but felt details of position should be left to discussions with Micronesians. (b) Ambassador Finger specifically stated that negotiations still continuing and specific terms of relationship still undefined. (c) He quoted from UN Charter obligations, not GA Res. 1541 dealing with free association.

5. In essence, Ambassador Finger said we would meet our trusteeship obligations and were hopeful for agreement

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with Micronesians. He did not endorse or reject any specific terms on which such an agreement might be based. In this connection, if useful, you may point out that in May talks U.S. Delegation pointed out imprecision of term "free association." Finger response is correspondingly imprecise as to nature of "free association" which might be acceptable to USG. Details, and Bennett as Ambassadors Phillips, ~~and~~ Finger/stated, need to be worked out with Micronesians. LOESCH SENDS.

END

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