

## MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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June 16, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE

SUBJECT: Negotiations on the Future Political Status  
of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
(Micronesia)

At Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President containing our proposed negotiating scenario for settling the status of the TTPI and the terms of reference which Dr. Franklin Haydn Williams would employ in conducting these negotiations. The President's approval is requested for both. The negotiating scenario was a product of the Under Secretaries Committee, and contains some differences of opinion between Interior on the one hand and State and Defense on the other. However, these can be adjusted in the course of Dr. Williams' negotiations. He drafted his terms of reference himself and gained the concurrence of Interior, State and Defense. The corrections which you indicated on the earlier draft memorandum have been made.

You have indicated that you might wish to reconsider our stand on Positions II and III, and have asked for the views of the JCS. I presume that your concern here is whether Positions II and III would be acceptable to the Chiefs in terms of assuring them they will get what they want. I have checked with BG Smith of the JCS (J-3), who has assured me that the positions laid out in the Under Secretaries Committee paper fully meet the desiderata of the Chiefs, who regard this as a good paper. They believe that the scenario will probably get us what we want in terms of land access and denial of an entree into the TTPI on the part of other powers, either through permanent association or through some of the other fall-back positions. They are fully prepared to pay the price, i.e., to make arrangements for long-term leases and to forgo the application of some U. S. laws in favor of allowing TTPI laws and customs to prevail where U. S. interests are not involved.

I would not endorse any further review of the TTPI issue. There is a great deal of restiveness among the peoples of the TTPI regarding their status, and they want us to get on with the negotiations. In fact, Haydn Williams received something of an ultimatum last week from two members of the TTPI Status Commission which said in effect, "work out a solution by the end of July or we will opt for full independence." Williams talked

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them out of this in an amicable way, but we still must keep moving ahead. Haydn Williams' terms of reference and the initial negotiating position are, in my opinion, flexible enough to permit us to start the negotiating process now and to make further adjustments as they may appear necessary.

Recommendation:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

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