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SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OMS August 20, 1971

FINAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo for Record

Subject: Meeting with Senator Salii and Dr. Mihaly August 20, 1971

In a telephone conversation with Ambassador Hummel, Ambassador Williams reviewed his meeting with Sen. Salii and Dr. Mihaly as follows:

Dr. Williams said he had first reviewed his trip to Micronesia and then they had discussed dates and site of meeting. Senator Salii had confirmed that their delegates would be delighted to meet at the Hana Maui Hotel and that the dates were satisfactory. He said his delegation would be arriving in Maui on the 3rd but were going hold their own caucus before the meeting a few days early in Honolulu. Dr. Williams said they talked about the meeting environment. Salii said he was surprised at receiving a copy of the Craley letter to HW and he sent them a cable to effect that he and HW had not consulted on coverage of the talks by the press and he thought it was presumptuous of them to assume (as much as they had). Salii wants the talks to be private and confidential. He does not expect to have advisers in the meetings but available for consultation. He feels agreement between both sides as to what outside press is to be permitted is important.

Dr. Williams said they discussed the possibility of a joint communique at the end of the conference. Mihaly had thought that because of the high interest there were bound to be leaks and maybe some distortions, and he suggested perhaps the Micronesian News Service could be named as the central pool for all journalists with a statement being made on a daily basis. Salii said he could speak for his

OMSN-4 03-411199

delegation that they would not individually be talking to the press. On the other hand, he did not want to take the position that journalists should not be there. However, if both sides made known that there would be no release until the very end of the talks, it might discourage some from coming.

Ambassador Hummel said he did not believe the idea of having a central pool would work. Ambassador Williams said they had agreed to think about it more and consult again before a final determination was reached; he was very satisfied with Salii's general attitude on the whole matter. He said they had not talked very much about agenda. Salii had not brought a copy of the letter he had written in response to HW's letter from Washington. With Mihaly, Salii had agreed that both sides should know in advance what was to be on the agenda. Salii said HW's letter had raised some of the major questions to be discussed and he thought there would be a convergence on some of these. HW said he had not queried Salii as to exactly what he meant. Dr. Williams said Salii and Mihaly were taking a much softer line than in June with respect to the American position -- starting with the four principles, etc.

Salii had said he expected to be in Washington in September and he was thinking of the week of September 6th. Dr. Williams said that perhaps the only disturbing factor in the meeting was Salii's signalling that he wanted to talk with individual Members of Congress before the talks begin. He had raised the question of Congressional observers. He said: "As you know, our mandate calls for us to consult with Congress as well as with the Executive Branch." Dr. Williams had replied: "Of course the responsibility at this stage rests in the hands of the Executive Branch and we will be consulting with Congress." Dr. Williams had stated further

that if there were Congressional observers, Salii shouldn't feel they were there for negotiating, but as representatives of the Congress.

To Amb Hummel:

(Dr. Williams commented that with Congress reconvening on the 8th of September, it would take a lot of work to get in Congressional consultations on the US side also. He thought it would be better for the US side to see the Congressmen before Salii did. Amb. Hummel said there could be a contrary argument to this -- along lines that (on the US side) advice of Committee Chairmen Jackson and Aspinall and their ranking minority members first be sought. Amb. Hummel had been talking with Roy Hughes and the Interior Congressional Liaison about providing a scenario, then giving a full briefing and considering then how to handle the next stage. There would be briefing sessions for others as well which would have to be delicately worded. In these circumstances, it might be better for Salii to have visited Congress earlier with the briefings held after his visits. HW agreed that this was a point; both sides needed to be examined.)

Dr. Williams reported that the meeting with Salii and Mihaly was very cordial. He had agreed to call Sen. Salii on August 30 and to have another meeting with him before going to Washington. Sen Salii had said he was looking forward to meeting Amb. Hummel; he thought it would be very helpful to get together before the round of talks to discuss views and conference procedures.

Dr. Williams said he had recommended that the USG, in a sense, serve as host in terms of basic costs of the meetings, room and board, and Salii has said:

"If you have any problem, we will find the money to pay for our own. "

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To Amb. Hummel:

Dr. Williams asked that Amb. Hummel call Tap Pryor in Honolulu and tell him that agreement had been reached and request that reservations be made with a target number of 36 (the number could be less) for Sunday, October 3, through Sunday, October 10 (check-out on 11th). He said if it were necessary to stay on, an extension would have to be requested. Salii had said there would be 12 in his delegation plus one, maybe two, advisers. Dr. Williams allotted an outside number of 15-16 spaces for the Micronesians. Sen. Salii had said he saw no reason for TTPI personnel to be there. HW thought further talks might be had on this subject in September, when they were in Washington. Dr. Williams said he would be in Washington Sept. 6-12, the last week before his departure for Japan. Amb. Hummel hoped he might come sooner.

Ambassador Hummel said he saw some potential ambiguities in the paper that had come from the Kissinger office from the one that had gone in but it might be possible to straighten them out with Holdridge. Clarification would be necessary before a firm scenario could be prepared for Congressional consultation; but he would know more about this next week.

Amb. Hummel had talked with Admiral Murphy who was surprised that Captain Crowe had not arrived, so he evidently was on the way.

Notes taken from telephone conversation
between Dr. Williams and Amb. Hummel.
Draft not seen by Dr. Williams. D. Treakle

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