

United States Department of the Interior 0029/71

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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September 2, 1971

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The Honorable John N. Irwin II Chairman Under Secretaries Committee Department of State Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In accordance with my "Terms of Reference" for the forthcoming Micronesian status negotiations, forwarded by Dr. Kissinger on July 20, I should like to advise the Under Secretaries Committee of my plans for consultations with Congress before the next meeting with the Micronesians which is scheduled to begin in Hawaii on October 4th.

The White House, in the persons of Mr. John Lehman and John Holdridge, believes that consultations with the Congress prior to the talks should be kept to a minimum. Moreover, Mr. Lehman said that the White House would not be able to agree at the present time to the inclusion of Congressional staff observers at the Hawaii talks. The presence of Congressional observers has been requested by the Congress at a number of important negotiations, including the SALT talks, and the Executive Branch does not wish to set an undesirable precedent.

A complicating factor is the planned trip to Washington of the Micronesian delegation Chairman, Senator Salli. He plans to visit a number of U.S. Congressmen during the period September 6 to 10. The Department of the Interior is handling his appointments on a routine basis.

Before Mr. Salii visits his Congressional contacts, which include Senator Jackson, Representatives Aspinall and Burton (Interior Subcommittee Chairman), and others, it is advisable that my office, State, Interior, and Defense inform the appropriate Congressional Committee staffs that there will be a round of talks on Micronesian status. State has offered to notify the Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations Committee staffs of our planned meeting in Hawaii. Similarly, the Defense Department would notify the Armed Services Committee staffs at an appropriate time and, in general terms, outline the basic DOD interests to be protected.

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASHD ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER PRO-VISIONS OF E.C. 12356 BUNCLAS SIFIED YNCS D.R. DOLAN, USH SECRET SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OMSI

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I plan to offer substantive briefings to Representative Aspinall and his ranking minority member, Representative Saylor, on the Interior Committee of the House, and to Senator Jackson and his ranking minority member, Senator Allott, on the Senate side. With these gentlemen, I anticipate being as candid as possible about our negotiating strategy and asking them to hold the information very closely. I shall also inform them that, in accordance with White House instructions, I do not plan to have any pre-negotiating briefing for other members of Congress. I shall, of course, promise a full and detailed briefing for the interested committees after the talks have been held.

It seems likely that Representative Burton and perhaps other interested Congressmen will press for pre-talk briefings, and in that event the White House has stated that it would support my refusal to do so, possibly with letters to the Congressmen.

The above course has the concurrence at the working levels of all the Agencies concerned. Time is very short if we are to notify the Congressional staffs that are involved, and I hope to begin the above process about Friday, September 3.

Sincerely,

NCL

Franklin Haydn Williams The President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations

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TO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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Washington, D.C. 20520

NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

NSC-U/DM

September 2, 1971

: The Deputy Secretary of Defense The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff The Deputy Attorney General The Under Secretary of Interior The Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget

SUBJECT: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands--Letter from Ambassador Williams on Micronesian Consultations

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The Chairman has received the attached letter from Ambassador Williams about his plans for Congressional consultations. I am distributing this letter to members of the Committee for their information and to keep them up to date on where the Micronesian preparations stand.

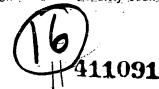
Arthur A. Hartman Staff Director

Attachment:

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As stated herein. S/S 7113580

> Declassified/Released on <u>F85-5/4C</u> under provisions of E.O. 12356 By B. Reger, National Security Council





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