



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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November 8, 1971

Memorandum

To: Ambassador Haydn Williams
From: Arthur W. Hummel, Jr.
Subj: Your talk with Salii, and my plans and activities

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED
ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER PRO-
VISIONS OF E.O. 12356 BY
ERIC D.S. POLLEY, USA
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OASD

Bill Crowe, who will be carrying this memo to you tomorrow, will fill you in on our activities here, and on our thinking on a number of topics. This memo, therefore, is meant to cover only some of the more important aspects of our planning that I want to raise with you directly.

First and foremost is the need for your frank and probing conversation with Senator Salii. As we have been discussing on the telephone, it is vital that you at the very least prepare Salii for the possibility (in my view the probability) that you will not want to accept his invitation to go to Palau for another negotiating session in December. In so doing, it seems to me you are now in a position to ask a number of very searching questions of Salii. In the days before the Hana talks, we had to treat Salii with kid gloves, and be very tender of his feelings and views. Now, in the light of the new atmosphere of Hana, and also in the light of our need to probe him vigorously, it seems to me your conversation with him can, and should, be very much more direct.

You will want to make it clear that we definitely promise to go to Micronesia for further talks. However, you should outline very candidly our doubts and our questions about the advisability of having the next round before the Micronesian Congress can meet to consider the progress made at Hana. Vigorous probing of Salii would seem to be essential in order to bring to light just what he thinks could be achieved by talks in December--if anything. As you know, most of us here are strongly against accepting the December invitation, at least in the light of the information we now have. At the same time, everyone concerned understands that the decision is yours to make. You will have much better basis for your decision after you have pressed Salii for his views, and his reasons for wanting the December session.

Secondly, there is another important area for you to discuss with Salii and that is the problem of distortions, some malicious and wrongly attributed, that are appearing in Micronesia and in the U.S. concerning the Hana talks. The Friends of Micronesia release attributed to Salii himself is a case in point. It should be possible for you to impress on Salii the importance of repudiating such unauthorized and distorted information that can only make negotiations more difficult if not countered or silenced. In this context you could let Salii know rather casually that we are proceeding with plans to publish the complete transcript and other materials.

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Thirdly, my proposed trip to Micronesia will probably begin early next week, in order that I may arrive in Saipan while the Distad meeting is still in session. I would then take a couple of weeks or more to visit the other District Centers. Before setting out on this trip it would seem highly advisable for me to see you and Salii together in San Francisco, and also, of course, to see you privately to get your instructions. By seeing Salii before I go out, I believe there is some chance that I could elicit from him some helpful statements which I could use in conversations in Micronesia, particularly on two topics: (a) Salii's understanding of our indecision as to whether we will accept his invitation to Palau in December, and our reasons for hesitating; and (b) Salii's views and statements concerning the successes of the Hana talks, which I would use selectively in Micronesia to counter unfriendly distortions. These meetings with you, and with you and Salii together, are therefore very urgent if I am to complete them in time to arrive in Saipan while the Distad meeting (Nov. 15-19) is still in session. I hope we can discuss this further by phone after you have read this. Bill Crowe will explain how our Congressional consultations are going, and the status (still unfixed) of my request to call on Congressman Burton. In terms of timing, it would seem advisable for you to have seen Mr. Burton before he goes on his Micronesia trip (now scheduled for Nov. 27). Bill Crowe will tell you of our concerns about the probably adverse impact of that trip unless Mr. Burton is very carefully briefed. I am making a strong plea for someone from Interior to go along on the trip to help correct any mistakes or distortions.

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