



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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~~SECRET~~ C L A S S I F I E D

To: Arthur W. Hummel

From: Ambassador Williams HW

Subj: Ambassador Williams private conversation with Senator Salii,
(12:20 - 12:40) October 12, 1971

At my request Sen. Salii met me at the swimming pool area at Hana Maui for a private discussion just prior to our last formal negotiating session. Cong. Silk joined us later in the conversation. Sen. Salii was serious, a little tense, but cordial throughout.

Sen. Salii told me that the upcoming session would be the last one in our current round of negotiations, and he planned to make a short statement emphasizing the areas in which important progress had been made, but also pointing out the areas in which differences remain. He said he also would center in his remarks on the all-important question of the termination of any new relationship. He said there seemed to be no further need for discussions at Hana Maui because the two sides are so far apart on the termination issue.

He said his side would need further study of the American proposals, including the areas of agreement. He noted that some of the points raised by the U.S. side have very technical implications, and said his delegation did not have sufficient expertise with which to examine those implications at Hana, and would need the help of other people in the Micronesian Congress.

He then said that there are members of his delegation who wanted to re-evaluate the Micronesian position on unilateral termination, and intended to suggest to their Congress that their basic mandate should be changed so that bilateral termination could be negotiated. Some of the members had wanted to proceed immediately, at Hana, with discussions of bilateral termination with the American side.

However, Salii said, his side did not have the flexibility that the American side enjoyed, because of its basic mandate. Therefore he would suggest in his closing statement that there should be another negotiating session in December, just before the Micronesian Congress meeting January 10, that would center on the termination issue, as well as other remaining areas of disagreement.

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VISIONS OF E.O. 12958 BY
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I said I understood, and I then suggested the need for a joint agreed communique and offered to have a draft ready for discussion at the final session. Sali agreed. We discussed the importance of accentuating the positive rather than the negative, and the progress that had been made, but also noting that some important differences remained to be overcome. He agreed that this was the right approach.

F. Haydn Williams

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POSSIBLE PRIVATE APPROACH TO SALII

*Done orally -
to Salii*

Tactical Issues:

1. We wish to nail the tentative results of the Hana talks with a substantive communique which demonstrates Micronesian acceptance of our wishes on vital points such as land.

2. We should put ourselves in the best possible ~~position~~ propaganda position if the Status Committee later decides to exploit our failure to meet the Fourth Principle.

Suggested Approach:

That you consider the following approach to put us in the best possible position on the two issues above:

1. You have an informal foursome meeting with Salii and Silk. *(This should be before they give their response to your Monday presentation; additional meetings may also be needed to carry through the scenarios below.)*
2. You mention again the point (p.10A of your Monday draft)

that our proposals have been negotiating positions only, and that they are not binding in the absence of explicit agreement embodied in the Communique or agreed minutes. You observe that the process of getting agreement among the Departments in Washington on such forthcoming positions was not easy, and that there is a real possibility of their coming unstuck

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if we are not bound to them by an explicit agreement such as you have mentioned in the formal sessions.

3. You express the hope that the Status Committee can take the most forthcoming attitude possible on including as many specifics as possible in the process of negotiating the forthcoming communique.

(This would also be a useful opening to seek Sali's concurrence that the Communique language would be worked out between Messrs. Hummel and Silk, with assistance as necessary.)

4. You find the opportunity to remind Sali that he has shown sustained interest in seeking to persuade us to negotiate on the termination question beyond the bilateral termination procedures which you have described. You wonder how he can seriously expect any movement on our part when his side has been unwilling to go on record with any "give" on the points of particular concern to us. (This is possible only if Micronesians play tight on the Communique, or if you decide to open up the possibility of movement on unilateral termination.)

5. You indicate that you may make reference to this conversation in the public summary of the Hana meetings. (Important to permit us later

to show that we hinted at a way to resolve the unilateral termination issue, but that Micronesian unwillingness to move from fixed positions stymied that line of approach. This could be most useful later, if things go sour at Micronesian initiative; you would probably not expect to surface this conversation in the initial report of the Hana meetings.)

6. You wait to see how far the Micronesians will come in drafting the Communique.

This should be considered only after and in the light of the Monday session.

Lindsey Grant

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