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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



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January 26, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Micronesian Status Negotiations

I am presently in the process of preparing for the next negotiating session which will probably take place in Palau sometime in March.

[REDACTED]

The clear implication was that this would be a difficult issue at the next negotiating session and the published report by the Micronesians has re-emphasized their interest in the issue.

Some Micronesians and their American sympathizers are attempting to employ this issue to discredit the U.S. position and to argue for Micronesian independence.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Now that the President has publicly renounced biological warfare and the U.S. has commenced destroying its supplies of biological agents and toxins, I believe that Micronesian fears can be dispelled regarding those materials.

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ISA preparing a reply for your signature.

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The remaining category is chemical weapons. I have no indications that our strong desire to obtain basing rights in Micronesia has been influenced by the need for chemical weapons storage. If that conclusion is correct, it might be possible to forego the storage of chemical weapons in Micronesia.

If it is possible to do so without sacrificing our essential interests, I believe there is merit in being prepared to extend firm assurances that the United States will not deploy or store bacteriological or chemical weapons on Micronesian soil.

Moreover, those Micronesians who genuinely fear bacteriological and chemical weapons would be reassured and public criticism dampened. Certainly, such an offer would be within the spirit of the President's publicly declared policies regarding both bacteriological and chemical warfare.

I would like very much to have your views on the above and, if you agree, your concurrence on the proposed course of action.

*F. Hayden Williams*  
Franklin Hayden Williams

The President's Personal Representative  
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

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