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UNCLAS DISTAD PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SENATOR SALII FROM
AMB. WILLIAMS ON PRIVATE AND PERSONAL BASIS WITH COPY TO JOHN

DORRANCE ONLY. QUOTE: Dear Lazarus: We appreciate your invitation
and look forward to meeting with you and the Joint Status Committee
in Palau in April. We will plan to be there on April 2. In the meantime
I will be sending you shortly information about the composition of the
U.S. delegation for the Palau talks. You may assume for planning purposes
that the number will be approximately the same as at Hana.

I have noted with pleasure in the Congress of Micronesia Senate
Journal your statement introducing the Status Committee's Draft Report
on the Hana talks which stressed that a blueprint and specific recom-
mendations could only come after the conclusion of the next round of
negotiations. I certainly agree that, before the two delegations can
get down to particulars, the fundamental issues must be resolved and
therefore hope that at Palau we can begin the talks by addressing the
key issues left over from Hana. Once accord is reached on these
questions, we can consider the form and the exact language of an
agreement which would codify our relationship.

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DRAFTED BY: Interior: FHWilliams (see p. 4) DRAFTING DATE: 2/2/72 TEL EXT.: APPROVED BY: F. Haydn Williams

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I believe that our exchange of correspondence of November 25 and December 2, 1971, touched on the two principal areas of remaining difference between our two sides: responsibility for foreign affairs and defense, and termination. With respect to these important questions, I was most encouraged by your personal and unofficial response to my letter in which you said that you

'simply wish now to state that it has been the position of the Micronesian negotiating delegation that responsibility for defense and external affairs will be in the hands of the United States when the new status comes into effect. This continues to be the position of the Joint Committee, and was not repeated at Hana only because there were subordinate but related issues which required further clarification.

'On the question of termination, we have been unable to reach agreement so far. However, we, like you, believe that this is not an unsurmountable problem. We simply have not explored all the angles and approaches to solving _

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this issue.'

Agreement on these points I am sure will go a long way to clearing the way for understandings on those other issues that remain to be resolved.

I understand through John Dorrance that you would welcome any comment that I might have on your draft compact which you kindly gave me a copy of and which you have now submitted to your committee for its study and consideration. While I have read it carefully, I do not have any specific comments to offer at this time. I am, however, looking forward to seeing you in March on your return to San Francisco and at that time I would like to discuss informally with you some of the issues and problems I see in your draft which are quite important from our point-of-view.

We are preparing a compact also and after we have run through the issues at Palau we will both then be in a position, it seems to me, to get down to the business of the form, content, and language of the draft compact which will flow from our mutual agreements. Your draft will be useful in this exercise, I am sure, as will ours.

Negotiation of a precise agreement will clearly require considerable flexibility at the drafting table. It seems to me that it would be best for both sides to avoid coming to the talks with fixed positions on

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draft language and with this in mind, I would hope your draft compact does not become the "final position" of your delegation because of any action that your Congress might take.

In any event, I believe the first order of business in April will be to settle those issues which still separate us or require clarification. Then we can sit down to the task of formally drafting the language of a compact that will embody our substantive understandings.

I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco next month and in Palau in April. Sincerely, F. Haydn Williams, The President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations. END QUOTE.

END

ROGERS

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE 2/2/72	TEL. EXT. 39143	APPROVED BY: <i>F. Haydn Williams</i> F. Haydn Williams
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