

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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March 20, 1972

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MINUTES OF
INTERAGENCY GROUP MEETING

3:00 p.m.

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Present:	OSN	DOD	INT.	STATE
	W.J.Crowe, Jr.	A.Smith	T.Whittington	R.Stowe
	F.J.Crawford	G.Schuller	W.Holeman	L.Grant
	R.W.Johnson			
	H. Marcuse			
	J.C.Dorrance			
	R.Wyppenbach			

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Captain Crowe opened the meeting by informing the IAG members that the purpose was to bring them up to date on activities pertaining to the Palau talks. Various memoranda were then distributed to the members for their information. Captain Crowe called attention to one by John Dorrance which describes general conditions in Palau for the edification of delegation members.

Mr. Dorrance gave his impressions of the Congressional session in Palau, including the sentiments of the Marianas and Marshallese on separatism. He stated Micronesian unity was very fragile and much of the disunity was caused by conflicts over where the money should go. He mentioned a MNS item that the Marshallese District Legislature was in session and had introduced a bill which would provide for a Marshall Islands Future Status Committee to study the possible future of the Marshalls. The bill provides for \$60,000 to fund the committee which would be comprised of members from the district legislature, Marshallese Congressmen, and representatives from the private sector. He believes the legislature's timing of the bill, just prior to the Palau talks, to be deliberate.

Captain Crowe informed the group that the change in negotiating instructions had been approved.

Captain Crowe reviewed briefly the Williams/Salii conversation (copies were distributed), pointing out that Amb. Williams had felt it was a fruitful session; that it had been agreed there would be both plenary sessions (on the record) and executive sessions (off the record); that Amb. Williams, Salii, and Silk would meet in private discussions on issues; it appeared that the independence movement had cooled considerably as a result of the Hana talks; the first meeting in Palau would be more or less a ceremonial one, with the first substantive session commencing April 3. He further stated that Amb. Williams was meeting again today with Senator Salii and would have more to report on whether Salii's thinking was still of the same trend.

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Captain Crowe reviewed two conversations that had been held with members of the Clifford Law Firm, pointing out various matters. He said that Mr. Warnke had made the remark that he thought a "back room" would have to be created in Palau, and that in Warnke's thinking much of the work would be accomplished there. The OSN members had tried to impress upon Mr. Warnke some of the difficulties involved in the various issues. Warnke remarked that he thought one of the Micronesians' biggest concerns on Defense was that they did not want to fight in any of our wars. Mr. Warnke asked after we had completed the negotiations, what kind "of an animal" would we have created? What would be the actual status of the TTPI? It was agreed this was something that needed considerable thought.

During a dinner conversation with Vicente Santos, President of the Mariana District Legislature, Captain Crowe and Ambassador Williams discussed problems concerning the Marianas. Amb. Williams tried to make clear that we wanted the initiative to come from the Marianas; that it would help to have some authority from the Marianas leadership; and that permission from the Congress was desirable, but not a necessity. Capt. Crowe felt, in discussing the proposed agricultural development of Tinian, that Santos obviously was not aware of the scope of U.S. plans.

It was announced that Ambassador Williams would be meeting with the Chairmen of the Congressional committees next week, also, hopefully, with Burton and Thomas. He suggested a meeting with the Hicom be set up before his departure for TT. Tom Whittington will try to arrange this. Ambassador Williams hopes to meet with Mr. Holdridge and, perhaps, with others.

The composition of the U.S. delegation was reviewed, the itinerary given, and the announcement that Capt. Crowe and Amb. Williams would very likely go to Saipan after Palau, wending their way eastward, and going to the Marshalls before leaving for Hawaii.

With regard to Eniwetok, Interior and OSN has agreed that Amb. Williams will make the announcement sometime during the talks in Palau, as he defines the military needs of the future. Apropos of this, a PACE representative will be stationed in Guam and within a few days of the announcement will brief the Hicom concerning this matter. A briefing is also scheduled later for the Marshalls. If it becomes necessary, the PACE representative could go to Palau to brief the Joint Status Committee. Copies of the environmental impact of the PACE project will be available in Koror for the Joint Status Committee.

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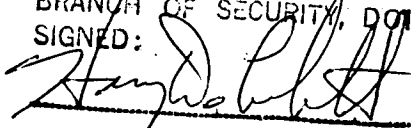
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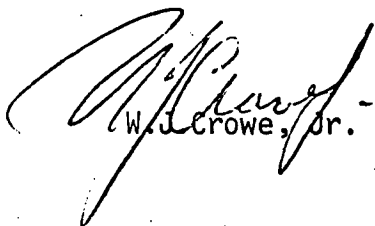
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Capt. Crowe told the group that Amb. Williams was working on various aspects and issues of his strategy and any substantive suggestions would be welcome. The Ambassador plans to do more listening than talking this session, endeavoring to draw out the Micronesians on foreign affairs and defense.

Captain Crowe stated that the time element necessitated all position papers be firmed up as soon as possible, and reviewed the following:

1. State - Paper on general policy concerning the relationship between the U.S. and Micronesians on foreign relations.
2. Defense - Papers on land and bilateral security.
3. OSN - Final talking paper on Finances.
4. OSN - Final paper on Termination.
5. DASTA - Paper on Transition (Tom Whittington).
6. State - Draft Compact (Ron Stowe).


W.J. Crowe, Jr.

Meeting adjourned.

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