

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

1700, April 3, 1972

Present: Salii, Silk, Williams, Crowe

1. Ambassador Williams mentioned the HiCom dispatch regarding an absence and stated that we would defer to Señ. Salii. We would go with the Micronesian delegation either pro or con.

2. Salii said that they had had a meeting and would not be making a statement tomorrow.

3. Amb. Williams then outlined our prospective presentations on foreign affairs and defense. Salii had a few questions on foreign affairs but nothing significant. Surprisingly, he mentioned that defense was not of great concern to them. Otherwise, neither Salii nor Silk had any substantive comments and both seemed to think that the presentations were fine. They intend to study the presentations and respond Wednesday. We made it clear that we did not wish to proceed without some agreement in these two areas. Then we were flexible on what we would discuss.

4. Then Salii shifted the conversation to ask how long we contemplated before we could draw up a Compact. After some discussion, Ambassador Williams said that if we pressed and were willing not to have all the blanks filled, some type of agreement could be put together by the special session. It was made clear that we did not want to prolong the process and were willing to go to any lengths to facilitate this -- provided that agreement on the major issues was reached first.

5. This brought up the question of subcommittees, etc. Salii appeared to be very agreeable. He had previously mentioned that his delegation had been divided into groups responsible for various subjects. Crowe suggested that when we addressed major issues, in order to save time, he might like to have meetings of sub-groups from the two delegations to answer questions and to have a general dialogue. Ambassador Williams recommended that these be informal and off-the-record. Salii was generally agreeable, but said he would have to take it up with his delegation. The whole idea was well received, however. Salii was obviously under pressure to get on with the work and consider proceeding to a draft Compact as a matter of some urgency.

6. The air of the meeting was friendly and relaxed. The whole tone of the conversation was that agreement is coming -- the more important question is how do we expedite it. Ambassador Williams emphasized that we were willing to work with them and help them in any way that would assist in solving their external problems. Salii appreciated this and acknowledged that the drafting of a constitution

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was becoming more important and they would have to get at it.

7. The meeting broke up with the implied understanding that we would probably meet tomorrow after the regular session.