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03 APRIL 4

April 4, 1972

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FM DISTAD PALAU

TO HICONTERPAGIS

UNCLASS (SECTION I OF TWO)

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ACTION FIB, INFO MFA

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED  
AT THE CONCLUSION OF TUESDAY MEETING OF STATUS  
DELEGATIONS. BEGIN TEXT:

The United States Tuesday explained its position  
with regard to foreign affairs and defense matters in  
a thirty minute presentation by Chief Delegate Ambassador  
Raydn Williams. Following his presentation, the chairman  
of the Micronesian delegation, Senator Lazarus Sali, asked  
for a recess to study the U.S. presentation. It was  
the second day of the fourth round of talks between the  
U.S. Office for Micronesian ~~Status~~ Status Negotiations and  
the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of  
Micronesia. Senator Sali was to meet later today with  
Ambassador Williams to decide on a time for the next

meeting. Ambassador Williams, in his presentation, reiterated the U.S. position at the third round in Hana, Hawaii, and in his opening statement Monday, that the U.S., "by mutual consent and with the approval of the people of Micronesia, would be given responsibilities for foreign affairs and defense." Today he elaborated on these proposals and sought a reaction from the Micronesian delegation. Ambassador Williams outlined defense responsibilities in three categories: 1. The responsibility for the defense of Micronesia; 2. The ability to prevent third parties from using Micronesia for military-related purposes; and 3. The right to use U.S. military bases which might be established in Micronesia to support the United States' security responsibilities in the Pacific Ocean area. He once again spelled out the U.S. land requirements: the continuation of use of those defense establishments in the Marshalls, the new requirement for base rights in the Marianas, primarily on Tinian, and options for possible future requirements in Palau. "At the present time," he said, "there are no foreseeable military needs in Palau and these

options would be exercised only if future developments made it necessary." In the field of foreign affairs Ambassador Williams elaborated on the role the U.S. envisages for Micronesia and the U.S. in relations with foreign powers and international and regional organizations.

END OF JOINT STATEMENT TEXT. FOLLOWING IS FOR THE USE INCORPORATING THE JOINT STATEMENT INTO A USUAL USAS STORY WITH APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND FROM PREVIOUS STATUS REPORTS AND HONDAI'S OPENING STATEMENT TO FORM SOME BASIS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STORY.

(Status Talks--Round Four)

Palau, April 4 (NSA)--A joint statement issued at the conclusion of Tuesday's political status session in Palau indicated that U.S. and Micronesian delegates to the talks considered the matters of foreign affairs and defense at their third meeting.

The statement said: "The United States explained its position with regard to foreign affairs and defense matters in a thirty-minute presentation by Chief Delegate Ambassador Hayden Williams. Following the presentation, the chairman

of the Micronesian Delegation, Senator Lazarus Salii, asked for a recess to study the U.S. presentation... Senator Salii was to meet later (Tuesday) with Ambassador Williams to decide on a time for the next meeting."

According to the statement, Ambassador Williams repeated the United States position on foreign affairs and defense as stated at the third round of talks in Hawaii last year, and the position he outlined in the opening statement at the current talks on Monday (April 3). Tuesday's joint statement said that this position was "that the U.S., by mutual consent and with the approval of the people of Micronesia, would be given responsibilities for foreign affairs and defense."

In his opening statement at the Palau talks, Williams referred to these areas as follows: "As we have stated consistently, the United States desires full authority and responsibility in the areas of foreign affairs and defense. We are prepared," he said, "to expand on these desires and to answer the questions you posed. I should emphasize," he continued, "that we consider U.S.

authority in the areas of foreign affairs and defense, because of our international treaty obligations and commitments, to be a basic element of an association, just as local control over land and laws is a basic element of an association from your point of view."

At the Hawaii talks, the United States position was spelled out during one of the sessions last year. At that time, the U.S. referred to the Congress of Micronesia's status reports of 1969 and 1970 in which foreign affairs and defense matters were discussed. The 1969 report said:

"The U.S., subject to certain exemptions, limitations and conditions, will conduct Micronesia's external affairs and provide protection from outside aggression and consult with Micronesia before entering into international obligations with respect to Micronesia."

The 1970 report, referred to at the Hawaii talks, said, in part:

"The responsibilities for external affairs and defense would be handled by the United States, and it would therefore be necessary for the United States to

retain sufficient powers in these areas to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities."

However, in response to the United States presentation on foreign affairs and defense at the Hawaii talks six months ago, the Micronesian delegation indicated a need for further clarification on these matters. According to the Joint Status Committee's Draft Report on the Hawaii negotiations, the Committee felt "that both areas of foreign affairs and defense are of vital concern to Micronesia, but that the United States has not spelled out in detail the nature of its basic approach to these matters."

The Draft Report continues: "The Committee maintained the position on the following points:

(A) The United States would seek Micronesia's concurrence before assuming international legal obligations in its behalf. However, in the event of non-concurrence, the U.S. would ensure that the treaty or pact specify that it was not applicable to Micronesia. Finally, Micronesia would expect that the United States would consult with the

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(STATUS TALKS CONT.)

Government of Micronesia before taking steps that would have a direct impact on Micronesia's interests.

(B) In (any) compact between the U.S. and Micronesia, Micronesia would assume that the compact would empower Micronesia to make arrangements or agreements on its own behalf with nations other than the United States and other international institutions in matters of economic, cultural and educational, social and scientific character."

At Tuesday's meetings in Palau, according to the joint public statement, Ambassador Williams elaborated on the U.S. foreign affairs and defense proposals "and sought a reaction from the Micronesian delegation." The statement also said that Williams "elaborated on the role the U.S. envisages for Micronesia and the United States in relations

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with foreign powers and international and regional organizations.\*

In regard to defense matters, the joint statement issued Tuesday said, "Ambassador Williams outlined defense responsibilities in three categories:

1. The responsibility for the defense of Micronesia;
2. The ability to prevent third parties from using Micronesia for military-related purposes; and
3. The right to use U.S. military bases which might be established in Micronesia to support the United States' security responsibilities in the Pacific Ocean area.

He once again spelled out U.S. land requirements: the continuation of use of these defense establishments in the Marshalls, the new requirement for base rights in the Marianas, primarily on Tinian, and options for possible future requirements in Palau.

"At the present time," he said, "there are no foreseeable military needs in Palau and these options would be exercised only if future developments made it necessary."

The areas of foreign affairs and defense were two



of the five areas which the United States delegation indicated it wished to discuss during the current status meetings. The other areas are finance, transition steps to any new status, and the matter of how any future association between the U.S. and Micronesia might be terminated if that became necessary or desirable.

Tuesday afternoon, the members of the delegations continued to meet among themselves, with the next joint session expected sometime on Wednesday, April 5.