



# United States Department of the Interior

No

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

9 August 1972

## MEMORANDUM

From: Captain William J. Crowe, Jr.  
To: Captain Gordon J. Schuller  
Subj: Forthcoming Military Land Negotiations

1. It looks at this point as if the actual negotiations for military land in Micronesia will not commence until after the Sixth Round (28 Sept) of talks. I foresee at the next session in Hawaii some general discussion of the land negotiations and probably an effort to make specific organizational arrangements for the land negotiations. My IAG memo of 8 August asks for some information which would equip the U.S. Delegation to address those subjects. We should be prepared, however, to enter formal land negotiations shortly after the September talks and the purpose of this memorandum is to offer you some of my thoughts on the detailed preparations we should be making. (Perhaps you are already doing some of these things and I am confident that you have thought of a number of things which I have not.) The following appear to me to be required:

(a) Copies of all the present leases in the Marshalls between the USG and the TTPI administration and between the TTPI and individual land owners. Each of these leases should be legally analyzed.

(b) A memorandum as to the current status of the Roi Namdir negotiations and an analysis of the troublesome problems.

(c) A copy of the independent appraiser's report regarding Roi Namdir. As I understand it, this report may have some bearing on the "fairness" of the present leases in the Marshalls.

(d) The two memoranda I requested in the 8 August memo to the IAG (dealing with legal validity of the Marshalls and the obligations of a successor government).

(e) Suggested instruments for securing the 2000 acres on Babelthuap. In this regard it must be decided whether we intend

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to negotiate leases or options. ©

(f) Suggested joint "use agreements" for the Palau airport.

(g) Suggested lease or option for the naval facility in Malakal Harbor.

(h) A suggested agreement securing maneuver rights on the 30,000 acres on Babelthuap.

(i) A land plot showing ownership of the land on Palau in which DOD is interested.

(j) A position regarding the possibility and advisability of bringing an independent appraiser into the land negotiations.

(k) An answer as to whether we wish to send a survey team to Palau. This should be arranged through Salif if we do.

(l) A look at the propriety of OEO lawyers representing Palauans in the land negotiations. I don't know, of course, that this is a serious possibility, but I have heard rumors to that effect.

(m) Cost estimates on all the land desired and how far DOD is prepared to go.

(n) Some type of background material on the impact of the proposed facilities on the local economy (employment of local labor, salary levels, qualifications, total money expended for labor, local purchases of produce, what impact employment practices would have on the local labor market, etc.); the ecology (what types of sewage disposal systems planned - noting that the Palauans want all sewage to be either dumped over the reef or to have retriever units for fertilizer, where fresh water will be obtained, what protection will be afforded to prevent damage to the reef and its eco-system, what protection will be afforded to prevent damage to maneuver areas, noise abatement programs so as to prevent undue noise from operational aircraft and machinery); and the local customs and traditions (such as prostitution, juvenile delinquency, drinking, divorce, etc. in the context of local Palauan family values.) *I understand we cannot answer many of these questions, but we should be prepared to talk generally about them.*

2. Ambassador Williams will probably be writing directly to Secretary Laird regarding the relationship of the land sub-group to his overall authority for the negotiation of a new status. I do not know yet when that letter will be forthcoming. Incidentally, this letter may also address the sub-group for negotiating an agreement regarding the status of U.S. forces in Micronesia.

  
William J. Crowe, Jr.

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