



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS AND SENATOR SALII - 21 NOVEMBER 1972

Salii called from Tokyo saying he had received a message from Heine to contact me. I said I was glad to hear from him since there was some confusion here on developments there, and that I was hoping he would call me since I did not know how to reach him.

He then said he had received info copy message from Distad Palau to Amaraich re Palau "proclamation". In response to question, Salii said action came as a surprise to him. Said further he had cabled Amaraich to meet him in Guam on Friday to discuss matter. Said two of them might go to Koror next week to get to the bottom of the matter. Said action may be due to misunderstanding Amaraich message to Palau about Nov. 29 arrival survey mission. Salii said he couldn't comment further until he had read proclamation and talked it over with Amaraich. Said he would call me from Guam and send me copy of "proclamation".

He volunteered that survey mission should be delayed until situation clarified. I said there were other developments which also clouded picture; challenge to Silk, Tun petition on 7th Round mentioned specifically. On Silk, Salii said he was concerned but that even if recount went against him, he could still serve until Jan. I said yes but that would mean that 1/4 his Committee lame ducks and if Lanwi and Silk didn't participate there would be no representation from the Marshalls. He said that is true and no doubt Silk challenge complicated the situation.

On Tun initiative, he said it was in response his circularizing members his Committee. Said Tun concerned JFSC might not be prepared seventh round and that he might have valid point. Salii said further some members his Committee might be in Guam/Saipan and that he intended to see them before calling me.

I said I had serious doubt now ability to go forward tentative plans in light these developments and without full exchange with him on all aspects situation. Said I felt face to face meeting essential and that U.S. could not

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make firm plans under present circumstances there. He agreed and I asked him to think about a meeting in S.F., Hawaii or Washington. He said he would and offered no objection to such a meeting. I attempted to make it clear that situation there, time limitations, etc., raised serious doubt in my mind whether 7th Round feasible or desireable but did not absolutely close the door.

Told him about Marianas Talks - saying I was sure he was aware that U.S. had been invited and that we would meet in Saipan in Dec. He asked if dates had been set. I said no but that Pangelinan due in San Francisco this weekend. Salii showed no surprise and no negative reaction to my statement on Marianas.

Conversation was cordial and correct. Salii seemed concerned and agreed to need for reconsideration tentative plans and for meeting before any final decisions taken. He said he would call me from Guam. I suggested he call me at any time from Thursday on. He has my S.F. numbers.