



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

11/30/72

In reply refer to:
I-28805/72

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Micronesian Status Negotiations (U/SM 86N)

ISSUE: Should Ambassador Williams' reassessment of the Micronesian Status Question and his recommendations to the Chairman, Under Secretaries Committee, be concurred with?

BACKGROUND:

- As a result of Senate Joint Resolution 117, passed by the Congress of Micronesia (COM) in August 1972, the Micronesian Joint Future Status Committee (JFSC) expressed a desire to address an Independence Option along with Free Association at the sixth round of status negotiations, recently completed in Hawaii.
- Since Ambassador Williams did not have the authority to discuss an Independence Option, the talks were recessed in order for the United States Government (USG) to develop a position.
- Ambassador Williams' November 22, 1972 memorandum to the Chairman, Under Secretaries Committee, contains his reassessment of the Micronesian Status Question and recommendations for the next steps to be taken in the negotiating process. Specifically, the memorandum discussed the following issues:
 - Summary of where we now stand.
 - Background on US negotiating objectives, review of recent rounds of negotiating, and the Marianas Separate Status Question.

See Def Cont Nr. X- 5714

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10-431681

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Classified by ASD (ISA)
SUBJECT TO AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 1980

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- Resumption of the talks with the JFSC.
- Initial treatment of the Independence issues.
- The Marianas negotiations.
- Land requirements.
- Decisions on future action concerning the Independence Option.
- Recommendation that the USC inform the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs of:
 - Ambassador Williams' plans to complete, if possible, a Draft Compact of Free Association within his present terms of reference.
 - The intention of the USC to have the IAG on Micronesian Status prepare for the President's consideration and decision on a study on the Independence Option and the advisability of agreeing to negotiate such an option with the JFSC.
- The NSC USC has requested DEPSECDEF/CJCS comments and/or concurrence by COB 30 November 1972.

DISCUSSION:

- With exceptions in specific areas, the general content of Ambassador Williams' memorandum presents an accurate description of the overall situation.
- However, the recommendation and supporting rationale with respect to Ambassador Williams' desire "... to complete, if possible, a Draft Compact of Free Association within his present terms of reference," cannot be concurred in since it represents a fallback position from that taken by the United States at the sixth round of status negotiations.
 - Ambassador Williams does not have the authority to discuss an Independence Option under his present terms of reference.
 - Talks were recessed in order for the USG to develop a position on Independence.

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- The Defense view is that to hold the seventh round of negotiations with the JFSC prior to the Independence issue being resolved by the USG would be premature.
- The seventh round should be held in abeyance until the Independence issue is resolved by the USG and new instructions are issued Ambassador Williams.
- Due to the multiplicity and complexity of the problem, it is also believed that it will be impossible to resolve the issue prior to the COM's meeting on January 8, 1973.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend that the Deputy Secretary of Defense sign the attached memorandum.

Elwan 29 NOV 1972 *George W. Merriam*
 Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA) Director, Joint Staff

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff: Approved: *J.H. Moore* 30 NOV 1972
 Disapproved: _____

Enclosures
a/s