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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

1 DEC 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, UNDER SECRETARIES' COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Micronesian Status Negotiations

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and I have reviewed Ambassador Williams' re-assessment of the Micronesian Status question and recommendations for the next steps to be taken in the negotiating process as contained in NSC U/SM 8611 of November 24, 1972.

With exceptions in specific areas, the general content of the paper presents an accurate description of the overall situation. We cannot, however, concur with 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." Such a recommendation represents a fall-back position from that taken by the United States at the sixth round of status negotiations in Hawaii. 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. Since Ambassador Williams did not have the authority to discuss such an option, the talks were recessed in order for the United States Government (USG) to develop a position on this subject. No change in the Ambassador's instructions or in a USG position has occurred since then. Since a USG position on Independence is yet to be developed, we believe it is premature to meet for another round of talks. Due to the multiplicity and complexity of the problem, we further feel that it will be impossible to resolve the issue prior to the COM's opening session on January 3, 1973. The pros and cons that were considered in arriving at this conclusion are contained in the attachment.

In addition, the successful outcome of any future negotiations with the JFSC is contingent upon the guarantee of the availability of minimum military land requirements, as specified and jointly agreed in Title III, Annex B, of the draft Compact of Free Association. The recent anti-military declaration by the majority of High Chiefs,

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 12065
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DATE OBSOLETE ON 31 Dec 80

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Magistrates, and Legislators in Palau casts a reasonable doubt on the ability of the JFSC, with their current powers and authority, to guarantee delivery of Department of Defense minimum land requirements in Micronesia. The solution of this basic problem is considered critical prior to any resumption of talks.

We recommend, therefore, that the seventh round of status negotiations with the JFSC be held in abeyance until such time as the USG has developed a position on Independence and new instructions are provided to Ambassador Williams.


Kenneth Rush

Attachment

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