

6/29/88 UNDER PROVISIONS OF E.O. 12355 BY HARRY DELASHMUTT, CHIEF BRANCH OF SECURITY, FOI SIGNED:

Harry Delashmutt

Mr. Almond

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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March 7, 1972

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MINUTES OF INTERAGENCY GROUP MEETING March 2, 1972

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| Present: | <u>OSN</u> | <u>DOD</u> | <u>STATE</u> | <u>INTERIOR</u> |
|----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | H. Williams | A. Smith | L. Grant | S. Carpenter |
| | W. Crowe | G. Schuller | R. Stowe | T. Whittington |
| | H. Marcuse | | C. Sylvester | F. Radewagen |
| | F. Crawford | | | B. Chapman |
| | R. Wytenbach | | | W. Holeman |
| | R. Johnson | | | |

Ambassador Williams opened the meeting by welcoming Mr. Stanley Carpenter, newly appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Territorial Affairs, and introducing Dr. Richard Wytenbach of the Naval War College. Dr. Wytenbach will be working in OSN during March.

He further announced that John Dorrance would be arriving from Saipan March 3 and would be working in OSN for 2-3 weeks before returning to TTPI; that he would be returning to San Francisco on Friday, March 3, returning to Washington approximately March 13; that Captain Crowe would be heading the office preparing information and making assignments, etc., in connection with the Palau meeting; and that tentative plans are for the U.S. delegation to leave Washington on March 28 with a stopover in Guam, arriving in Koror around April 1.

Ambassador Williams informed the group that John Irwin, Under Secretary of State, was holding a NCS USC meeting of the principals on March 14. Secretary Morton, the new Deputy Secretary of Defense Rush, and Admiral Moorer have been invited. Ambassador Williams was to discuss with Mr. Marcuse possibility of Mr. Kleindienst or his successor being invited.

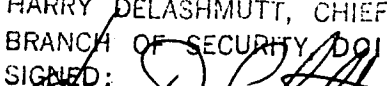
It was announced that the Hicom would be arriving in Washington approximately March 13 for budget hearings and would be accompanied by Raymond Setik and two members of the Joint Status Committee: John Mangefel and Bailey Oltar. Also, that Andon Amaraich, a member of the Joint Status Committee, has been selected to accompany the Hicom to the UN meetings in May.

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Mr. Carpenter was then invited to present his findings and impressions during his recent orientation trip to the TTPI.

During his trip Mr. Carpenter met with the Congress of Micronesia in Palau and several different meetings were held with various members of Congress. He talked with Sen. Salii and Rep. Silk for over an hour when they requested a private meeting with him. Sen. Salii brought him up to date on the status talks, but the principal subject discussed was transition. In 1968-69 Sen. Salii had visited Okinawa and was impressed with its administration. At that time there were some Americans working on Okinawa but their positions were in an advisory and training capacity, giving the Okinawans more and more operational responsibility as they became qualified. Mr. Carpenter made it clear to Sen. Salii that this situation did not evolve overnight and that such a program would take time. Sen. Salii indicated he was willing to have Americans in the TT government and he seemed to be aware that Micronesians did not at present have the capabilities needed. During their conversation Salii mentioned the possibility of an appointed Micronesian Hicom. Mr. Carpenter remarked that this was a goal for some time in the future. This meeting convinced Mr. Carpenter that Salii, if not the entire status group, was giving serious attention to the transition issue.

During a discussion with Carl Heine Mr. Carpenter asked him what timeframe he was contemplating with regard to the transition. Mr. Heine remarked three years, or perhaps three to five years. Concerning a plebiscite, Mr. Heine said this would not be in the near future; that a constitution would have to be drafted and an assessment made of it prior to a plebiscite and he thought this might take from nine months to a year. Mr. Heine said the Micronesians were getting fed up with the lengthy dialogue on status and that psychologically the Status Committee was ready to arrive at some agreement in Palau.

In Mr. Carpenter's contacts with the Status Committee members he found them more or less friendly and all comments on the Hana negotiations indicated everyone was well pleased. The only discordant note was a list of contentious and largely unanswerable questions which Roman Tmetuchl handed to Mr. Carpenter.

In all districts except Palau and the Marianas Mr. Carpenter found almost apathy on the whole status question. In Truk the people were quite derisive about their congressmen pushing for independence.

Mr. Carpenter stated the Marianas have very strong feelings for some type of permanent association with the U.S. He talked with the Governor and Lt. Governor of Guam and got the impression, although it was not discussed in detail, that Guam was not enthusiastic about a merger with the less economically advanced Northern Marianas.

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Mr. Carpenter was asked how much of a problem it would be for his office if the Northern Marianas should become a separate territory. He could foresee no insurmountable problems. It was agreed, however, that it might create a number of problems for the U.S. Congress.

Regarding the military, Mr. Carpenter felt the overall attitude toward the military was good. The Civic Action Teams have been well received and much good will has been engendered by the air evacuation program. Generally, the people felt the proposals made at Hana were reasonable and Dwight Heine had remarked that in those areas where there would be no military, the people were unhappy about it. The Saipanese are not averse to the military.

Mr. Carpenter then mentioned two areas involving his office which might affect the negotiations:

1. The Advise and Consent Bill - This bill was passed and sent to the Hicom. The Hicom has 30 days after receipt to take action. DASTA is proposing to the Department of the Interior that the Hicom be instructed to sign the bill. This will create some problems for DASTA, but since COM has restructured the scope of the bill, it includes a relatively small number of personnel. COM will have a standing committee to review the appointments. This committee may confirm or reject an appointment; no action would result in confirmation.

2. Foreign Investment - In Palau and the Marshalls, specifically, but to some extent in all districts, it is evident that Japanese commercial interests are involved. In Yap a Japanese group of businessmen was visiting. Stores with Japanese connections are springing up in all the districts. After Interior has determined its policy on the matter, it will be in touch with State and Defense for their views. This will not be before the Palau talks, however. It was agreed it would be useful to make some announcement on this matter before the UN meeting in May. It was suggested that this issue be held close for the present.

Ambassador Williams said he was meeting with Senator Salii in San Francisco. He planned to limit the discussions to Palau plans, i.e., format, agenda, press matters, participants, etc. Substantive matters could be discussed later in Washington.

There was a general discussion of the format which might be followed at Palau, whether the subcommittee device might be employed, and what kind of press and public influences Micronesian members might be subjected to by activists on their home ground. There was also a review of the tactics of the conference -- how to bring up the U.S.'s major concern with foreign affairs and defense, the Micronesian's major concern with termination, and the interest of both sides in getting areas of agreement tied down.

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It was announced that the Micronesian delegation would be meeting in Palau a week before the talks commence. The question was raised whether it would be wise to present them a list of subjects we would like to have them think about, e.g., finances.

The Micronesians' offer to assume the lodging and food bills of the U.S. delegation was discussed. There was some thought that the Americans would be better off to pay their own bills out of their per diem.

Captain Crowe then took over the meeting as Ambassador Williams left for an appointment. He told the group that if they had any questions they wished the Ambassador to pose to Salii, they should have them ready by Friday afternoon.

He also informed the group that Mr. Dorrance was meeting with Senator Pangelinan and Representative Guerrero in Guam on Friday, the 3rd, to discuss Mariana separatism and would report on his meeting when he arrived next week. A copy of a joint resolution on separate negotiations drawn up by Pangelinan and Guerrero was distributed. Members of IAG were asked to hold this resolution close for the present.

Press relations and coverage for the Palau talks were discussed. It was suggested that a more open arrangement with the press be a part of the Palau session. Mr. Johnson has submitted his views on this matter to Ambassador Williams. It is assumed there will be a number of reporters from various papers in Palau. An effort will be made to identify the number and papers represented before the session. It was suggested that there be an agreement between the two delegations concerning all communications.

Captain Crowe reviewed the following work in progress on various papers:

- Termination:- Paper has been completed (Crawford)
- Finance-- Paper has been completed (Crawford)
- Foreign Affairs - Paper will be ready Monday, the 6th (Stowe)
- Compact Language - In process (Stowe)
- Defense - Being worked on (Wytenbach)
- Justice - Several papers being worked on (Marcuse)
- Transition - A memo is being prepared for DASTA on this. (Crowe)

Captain Schuller announced that he would be calling a meeting on Friday, March 3, to discuss several aspects of the Marianas.

Meeting adjourned.

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