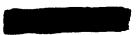
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NSC-USC Agency concurrence on the attached draft memorandum to the President requesting approval of a staff study prepared by Ambassador Williams' Interagency Group on Micronesia. DDI and DDO Mr. Colby have expressed no objection and no comment on the draft. Recommend concurrence.					· (b) (3)
APPROVED: Vernon A. Walters Lieutenant General, USA Deputy Director FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. DATE					-
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MEMORANDUM FOR:



(6)(3)

SUBJECT:

Micronesia

- 1. The attached draft memo to the President will be forwarded with the 125-page review prepared for the NSC/USC by Ambassador Williams' Interagency Group on Micronesia. The draft memo highlights the key points for Presidential decision:
 - a. Approval of the negotiating objectives (to establish a close, continuing relationship with the Marianas);
 - b. Approval of the type of status to be offered (preferably commonwealth);
 - c. Approval of the type of military land acquisition proposals (purchase or lease of substantial parcels);
 - d. Approval of an assistance package (including up to \$12 million annually in direct grants);
 - e. Approval of negotiating flexibility on land acquisition costs and cost of population relocation;
 - f. Approval of authority to negotiate with the Marianas a status agreement prior to termination of the trusteeship over the whole of Micronesia;
 - g. Approval of consultation with the US Congress on substance and implementation of agreement with the Marianas.
 - 2. The study also deals with action to be undertaken in the event of interference from the Congress of Micronesia. The Congress recently passed a resolution declaring that it has sole authority to negotiate for all of Micronesia and hinted that it may press this claim in court. If the COM really tries to complicate separate negotiations with the Marianas, the US can as a last (albeit politically unpalatable) resort clip the COM's wings by having the Secretary of Interior promulgate an order specifically excluding the matter of the future status of the Marianas from legislative action by the COM. (The COM was established by Secretarial order.)
 - 3. The draft memo to the President also recommends that the next round of negotiations be held as soon as possible (probably early May) and that the negotiations be pursued on a priority basis.

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These restrictions have been dregaring on for four years, with the Miceonesians becoming more demanding and taking a tougher position (though our side has had some problems getting itself together, too). As a result, separatist sentiment arose among the Marianas, whose people seek a close political tie with the US - and that is the angle we are working on. Between the resistance of the COM, the lack of sympathy on the part of the UN Trusteeship Council for separation of the Marianas, and stimulation among the Micronesians by home-grown US radicals, the pressure against any future status agreement that would meet minimum US security requirements is growing. Hence, there is considerable urgency in seeking early agreement with the Marianas.

4. DDI and Division have concurred. Agency concurrence is requested by c.o.b. 4 April.

(b)(3)

