



EA/RA Dorrance

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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June 6, 1973

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TO : EA - Mr. Hummel  
FROM : EA/RA - John C. Dorrance  
SUBJECT: TTPI -- State Responsibilities

6/6/73

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JD

POL 19 PACTT

By now you will have seen the separate memorandum to the Deputy Secretary on the Marianas Status Negotiations, as well as the Joint Communique issued at the conclusion of the Saipan talks.

Given the progress made in those talks (in particular the basic agreements reached on the future political status of the Mariana Islands) I think it may be time to re-examine State's continuing role in these negotiations, as well as that in the separate Micronesian negotiations, and in the preparation of various Interagency studies. My own thoughts (shared by Tom Johnson in L/EA, Charlie Sylvester in IO/UNP, and Ron Stowe in L) are as follows.

POL 19 PACTT

Marianas Status Negotiations -- These negotiations have now progressed to the point where State participation can be confined mainly to questions relating to termination of the trusteeship. We should of course remain involved in terms of clearing appropriate position papers, and by assuring that "our best foot" is always forward on issues which may affect UN consideration, or the parallel negotiations with the rest of Micronesia. But we should avoid direct participation on the various joint working groups established to thrash out agreement on technical issues relating to applicability of U.S. laws, financial questions, and land. Further, unless there are unforeseen developments, I see no need for direct State participation at the next formal round of negotiations with the Marianas Status Commission (indeed, our representation at the just-completed Saipan talks was, from hindsight, of marginal utility to all concerned).

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Micronesian Negotiations -- Contrary to the Marianas negotiations, sufficient issues of major interest to State remain to assure a continuing need for full State participation in these negotiations for the foreseeable future.

Micronesian Interagency Task Force Studies -- There is a continuing need to participate in the various studies under preparation. However, the extent of our participation should be altered to reflect the character of State's real interests. I particularly have in mind that my present deep involvement in TTPI public land issues should cease immediately. This time-consuming involvement originated at a time when I was virtually the only participant with any real knowledge of the issues and problems. This is no longer the case, and I should disengage from that issue and leave it to those that are concerned: OMSN and Interior. I stress this particular point as Ambassador Williams intends to undertake a major and separate study of this subject in the coming months. This will probably involve several trips by participants to Micronesia. State should play no further role in this problem except as it may impinge on issues of importance to us.

The impact of the various disengagements suggested above should be to reduce considerably the State workload related to Micronesia. On the other hand, continuing involvement in these areas will inevitably result in a vastly expanded workload in the coming months--both for myself and for Tom Johnson.

If you agree with the above thoughts, the "disengagement" process can begin immediately on an informal basis.

cc: EA/RA - Mr. Moore  
EA - Mr. Sneider

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