

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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June 22, 1973

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Memorandum for the Deputy Secretary

Subject: Recent Developments in the Marianas and Micronesia Status Negotiations

Ambassador Haydn Williams is scheduled to see you June 26 to acquaint you with recent developments in the Marianas and Micronesia status negotiations and related activities.

1. Mariana Status Talks. Ambassador Williams met with the Marianas Political Status Commission on Saipan May 15 to June 4 following Presidentially approved instructions issued after his departure from Washington. The result was substantial progress toward the common objective of establishing a close and permanent relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States.

The following was agreed in principle: Assuming final agreement endorsed by the Marianas and the U.S. Congress, the Northern Marianas will become a commonwealth of the United States. The U.S. will provide economic and financial support to the new commonwealth, though no specific figures were surfaced. The Marianas Commission acknowledged U.S. needs for substantial amounts of land for military purposes in the Marianas and agreed to negotiate in good faith, but questioned the extent of the actual requirements.

This summer joint working groups will consider the applicability of U.S. legislation to the Marianas, the extent of prospective local revenues in the Marianas and the gap between local resources and needs, and a number of technical questions relating to land. It was agreed that the full delegations will resume deliberations late this summer or early in the fall.

While many thorny problems are still to be negotiated -- particularly the extent of land to be made available to the U.S. military -- there is a mutual expectation that the next round of talks will bring further substantial progress toward final agreement. The joint communique which the two delegations issued when the talks recessed is attached.

2. Negotiations with the Joint Committee on Future Status. Enroute to Saipan Ambassador Williams met in Honolulu with the Chairman of the Joint Committee responsible for negotiations regarding the remaining districts of Micronesia. It was agreed that the two delegations should resume work on the compact of free association late this summer or early in the fall. The two chairmen agreed to meet frequently in the intervening months to discuss matters to be taken up by the two delegations and to consider particularly

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the complex question of how and when the U.S. should return to local control the substantial amounts of public land now held in trust for the people of Micronesia.

Chairman Salii and Ambassador Williams have met twice since the Honolulu session and plan to meet again next month. They have agreed to take up finance, transition and termination provisions under the draft compact of free association. Salii said he did not want to talk independence and would object if the U.S. raised it when the full delegations resume their work.

3. U.N. Trusteeship Council Session. The Trusteeship Council's mid-June discussion of the Trust Territory was much milder than expected, given the critical report which this year's U.N. Visiting Mission to the Territory had issued shortly before the Council convened. Acting under instructions from their home offices, the Australians, British, and French were relatively mild in their questioning. In particular the U.S. was not criticized directly in the Council for separate negotiations with the Marianas as it had been in the Visiting Mission's report. The Russians protested for the record only and were unusually silent. The Trusteeship Council is now drawing up its conclusions and recommendations to the Security Council which are expected to be mild.

4. Congressional Consultation. Ambassador Williams has appointments this week with some of the key Congressional leaders interested in Micronesia to update them on the Marianas negotiations and solicit their comments. He will also take up with them the Marianas' intention to seek Congressional approval of a non-voting delegate in the Congress representing the Northern Marianas exclusively. The burden of presenting the argument for such Congressional representation, however, will properly fall on the Marianas Political Status Commission.

  
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