

OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

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Washington, D.C.

20240 DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Deputy Secretary of State

From: U.S. Deputy Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations

Subj: ~~Your meeting with the President and Speaker of the Micronesian Senate and House of Representatives~~

It is considered unlikely that Tosiwo Nakayama and Bethwel Henry, respectively President and Speaker of Micronesia's Senate and House of Representatives, will discuss political status matters with you directly in your meeting with them on September 21. In the event that the subject is raised, however, the following talking points are recommended for your consideration and use:

Background

Haydn Williams met informally on Guam August 30 with Senator Salii, Chairman of the Micronesian Joint Committee on Future Status, to discuss preparatory work for the next round of negotiations and to clear the air on a few matters which, though not directly related to the negotiations, have recently been raised by Senator Salii in such a way as to becloud temporarily the negotiating atmosphere. Among these latter issues were: (a) Senator Salii's attempt through subpoenas to force three Trust Territory employees to testify before his Joint Committee regarding the advice they had given the U.S. Government on the return of public lands from U.S. to Micronesian control and papers which had been prepared on the subject for internal use by the U.S. Government; and (b) Senator Salii's charge that Washington was trying to suppress an initial political education program which had been prepared under the aegis of the Trust Territory Government to enlighten the people of Micronesia on the issues being considered in the status negotiations.

While these issues were not completely resolved in the Guam meeting, Senator Salii told the press that the discussion had brightened the atmosphere considerably. (The U.S. position on the issues outlined above is contained in the talking points below). Ambassador Williams and Senator Salii agreed that they will meet again informally late this month or early next to discuss, inter alia, an appropriate political education program for Micronesia, and that while much work remains on both sides, the two full delegations may be able to resume deliberations by late October or early November. On the U.S. side an interagency study containing recommendations to the President regarding our positions in the next round of negotiations is now being considered by the Under Secretaries Committee.

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On August 29 Ambassador Williams also met with the Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission to discuss the next round of formal talks in the separate negotiations with them. The main issue which the Ambassador discussed with the Marianas leaders was the reason for the U.S. imposition of a temporary moratorium on home-staying on Tinian Island adjacent to Saipan. It was agreed that the necessary preparatory work in several technical fields is proceeding satisfactorily and that the two full delegations should plan to meet sometime in the second half of November.

Senator Nakayama, like many members of the Congress of Micronesia and most of its Joint Committee on Future Status of which he is a member, is critical of the separate U.S.-Marianas negotiations because he believes them a threat to Micronesian unity. Speaker Henry is not a member of the Joint Committee but may share that view though much less strongly.

Talking Points

-- General: Inasmuch as many of the specific U.S. positions regarding negotiations with the Joint Committee on Future Status - particularly including the independence issue - are still to be considered by the President, any comments on the talks should be limited to a fairly general expression of satisfaction that the two sides are regularly in touch and that further negotiations are tentatively scheduled for later this year, as agreed by Ambassador Williams and Senator Salii. You might comment approvingly on their reaffirmation that the common negotiating objective remains completion of a draft compact of free association between Micronesia and the U.S. as soon as the necessary preparatory work has been completed.

-- Separate Marianas Talks: Should Senator Nakayama or Congressman Henry criticize or otherwise question the validity of the separate U.S. talks with the Marianas, you should recall that the U.S. decision to respond to repeated entreaties for separate negotiations from the leaders and people of the Marianas came only after lengthy, intensive soul-searching within the U.S. Government resulted in the conclusion that any other course would be to deny the people of the Marianas the right to self-determination promised in the U.N. Charter and in the trusteeship agreement. You should note that the decision to open negotiations with the Marianas was taken at the highest level of the U.S. Government and that it is irreversible. You could indicate that the U.S.-Marianas negotiations last May and June made substantial progress toward an ultimate agreement and that another round of talks is tentatively set for November. You might usefully note that it is naturally the U.S. hope that there will continue to be warm, mutually beneficial interchanges between the leaders and people of the Marianas and those of Micronesia regardless of the ultimate future status of each following the end of the trusteeship.

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-- Micronesian Unity: Either as a continuation of your comments on the Marianas negotiations, or should Nakayama or Henry refer to Micronesian unity in any other context, it would be helpful to recall that in a public statement in Majuro in the Marshall Islands on May 9 Ambassador Williams cogently expressed what has consistently been and continues to be the U.S. position on Micronesian unity: "..... The problem is basically one which the Micronesians must resolve for themselves. However, the United States has pursued the future status negotiations with the Joint Committee on Future Status in the hope and expectation that a common status will be forthcoming for the Marshalls and the Carolines. The United States will continue to hope that out of these negotiations and, more importantly, out of the deliberations within Micronesia regarding the nature of your future government, will come a united Micronesia. We continue to believe that despite considerable cultural diversity and differing local problems and interests, a unified Micronesia would best meet the economic, social, and other needs of the people concerned".

-- Subpoenas to Trust Territory Employees: The U.S. Government has taken a strong line with Senator Salii and the Joint Committee that while we will be willing to share with the Congress of Micronesia (COM) all information we develop on public lands questions, we cannot permit the COM to subpoena Trust Territory employees to testify before COM committees because of the principle involved regarding the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior in the Trust Territory. If the subpoena question is raised, you should reaffirm the U.S. position, and also note that we assume that the Joint Committee will not wish to push the instant case further in light of the fact that the U.S. Government has already given the Joint Committee all the information it has developed on the public lands question to date and will be passing further such information as it becomes available.

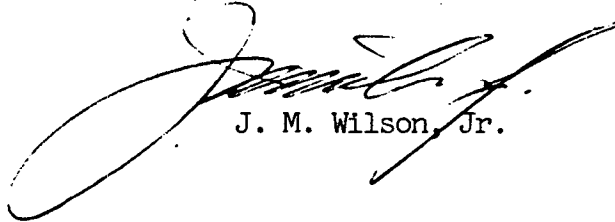
-- Political Education: Should the subject arise, you might indicate that far from seeking to suppress or delay a political education program for Micronesia, the U.S. has long been urging the Congress of Micronesia to undertake such a long-term program. In the present case the U.S. Government did not delay the initial program prepared under the direction of the Trust Territory Administration. The relevant Washington offices reviewed the program as requested and returned it to the Trust Territory Administration for discussion with Senator Salii. We understand that discussion is now going forward. While it is too soon to know to what extent the U.S. Government, the Trust Territory Administration and the Congress of Micronesia will ultimately wish to mesh or consult on their future programs of political education, Ambassador Williams and Senator Salii's agreement to consult further on the matter shortly is a useful step.

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— Moratorium on Tinian Homesteading: If this subject is raised you might note that the U.S. decision to place a moratorium on permits to homestead on Tinian Island, where the U.S. is seeking military base arrangements, is intended to minimize the chances for land speculation while U.S. land needs are being negotiated. There is already evidence that speculators are at work. We believe that further land speculation while the negotiations are in progress might result in hardships to the people of Tinian and in exorbitant land costs to the U.S. Ambassador Williams acknowledged to the Marianas leadership that in retrospect it would have been preferable for the U.S. to undertake the moratorium in consultation with the Marianas Political Status Commission and that any further actions relating to Marianas land will be undertaken only after such consultation.



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