

EXCISE

EA

MICRONESIAN LEADERS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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(in conference room)

September 18, 1973

9/18/73

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: The Acting Secretary
FROM: EA - Arthur W. Hummel, Jr. ~~Att~~

Your Meeting with Micronesian Leaders
4:30 p.m., September 21

~~Two~~ of the Congress of Micronesia's key leaders, Senate President Tosiwo Makayama, and House Speaker Bethwel Henry, are in Washington for approximately one week for meetings with Interior Secretary Morton, members of the US Congress, and with yourself. Biographic data are attached (Tab A). John Dorrance (EA/ANP) and I will accompany the Micronesians.

Following are issues likely to arise during your meeting:

Letter to CAB on Saipan/Tokyo Route Case

POL 19 THOUGHT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Hoop DATE FEB 25 1987
RDS [] or XDS [] EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS Non-Relavant portion

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EA/ANP: JC Dorrance / hfs

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Micronesia Budget

The primary purpose of their Washington visit has been to lobby for greater Congress of Micronesia control of US grant funds (\$60 million last year). Under present arrangements, the TTPI Administration (US controlled executive branch) prepares the annual TTPI budget in close consultation with the district legislatures and the Congress of Micronesia. The budget is then processed through the Interior Department and OMB before presentation to the US Congress. The five step (Micronesian districts, Congress, TTPI administration, Interior/OMB, and US Congress) budget cycle is an exceedingly slow and tedious process and Micronesian Congress controls are minimal.

The Congress of Micronesia for some time has sought more direct control of the US grant. The visiting leaders are now proposing informally that the Congress of Micronesia bypass Interior and OMB, and be responsible directly to the US Congress for budget presentations, and be accountable to the Congress for the programming of the US grant. Interior Secretary Morton has asked for a more formal and detailed proposal for his consideration. He did make clear that he is willing to work with the Congress of Micronesia to give that legislature a greater role in the budget process, and also stated that major changes in the budget/programming process will clearly have to be part of Micronesia's transitional change to its future status.

If the Micronesians should seek support for their proposals, we recommend that you:

--make clear that the specifics of this issue should be resolved between themselves, Interior and the US Congress; we do support the principle of an increased budgetary role for the Congress of Micronesia.

~~Subject: []~~

The US Congress may this year reduce the US grant from \$60 million to \$46 million -- because of large sums of money from past fiscal years not having been adequately programmed or obligated. If this subject is

raised, we recommend that you:

--suggest to the Micronesians that, if they believe the cut is unfortunate, they should take the opportunity of their Washington visit to make this known to their contacts on the hill.

~~Increased Self-Government and Transitional Status~~

Greater budget authority for the Congress of Micronesia is but one (if perhaps nearly the most important) aspect of the broader issue of increased self-government for Micronesia as a transition to a new political status. The Congress of Micronesia favors immediate major steps to more self-government. If this issue arises, we recommend that you:

--comment that the general question of transitional change is one that should be discussed with Ambassador Williams.

--note, however, that the US Government does recognize the importance of transitional change to Micronesia's new status, and that this will require increased self-government in the remaining years of the trusteeship.

--stress that, as a matter of principle, such changes should bear a close relationship to the future constitution and political status of Micronesia; for these reasons alone it is important to resolve the questions of Micronesia's future constitution and future status.

US Financing of a Micronesian Constitutional Convention

Ambassador Williams has publicly committed the US to provide financial support for a Micronesian Constitutional Convention. The Congress of Micronesia recently wrote a letter to Ambassador Williams asking for a contribution of \$750,000.

If this subject is raised, we recommend that you:

--comment that this subject is one that should be taken up with Ambassador Williams or his staff in the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations.

~~_____~~
~~The Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations~~
~~has prepared a memorandum on this subject (Tab C)~~
which covers the various issues that might come up.
If the Micronesians do raise status issues, you might
first remind them that:

--Ambassador Williams, as the President's
Personal Representative, is charged with responsi-
bility for the status negotiations. State's role is
an advisory one and any comments we might make must
be considered in that light.

--Like Ambassador Williams, we are anxious that
the status talks be resumed at an early date and
that Micronesia's future political status be resolved
as quickly as possible and in a manner acceptable not
only to us, but also to the people and leaders of
Micronesia, and to the UN.

--Although separate status for the Marianas
now appears to be inevitable, given the attitudes of
the people and leaders of that district, we sincerely
hope that the other districts can resolve whatever
differences they may have and continue to work toward
a common political future. We believe this is in
their best interests.

Attachments:

- Tab A - Biographies
- Tab B - Rush-Timm Letter of July 2, 1973
- Tab C - Wilson-Rush Memo of September 17, 1973

EA/ANP: JCDorrance/hfo
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Clearances:

EA/ANP - Mr. Moser, j

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Biographic Data: The Honorable Bethwel HENRY
Speaker, House of Representatives
Congress of Micronesia

About 41 years old and from the Ponape District of
Micronesia, Speaker Henry has been a Member of the Congress
of Micronesia since that legislature was established in
1965, and its Speaker for most of the past eight years.

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Biographic Data: The Honorable Tosiwo NAKAYAMA
President of the Senate
Congress of Micronesia

About 44 years old and from the Truk District of Micronesia, President Nakayama has been a Senator for all but a few of the past eight years. He has served twice as Senate President, and once as Senate Floor leader. He also is a key member of the Congress of Micronesia's Future Political Status Committee -- the Micronesian Delegation which negotiates with Ambassador Williams. Nakayama is generally accepted as one of the three or four most influential and respected leaders of Micronesia, although most Micronesians do not share his advocacy of Micronesian independence.

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