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Approved by D - Mr. Pendleton
8/8/74

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Memorandum of Conversation

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MADE IN S/S-I.
Date 8/9/74
Initial JH

DATE: August 1, 1974
5:30 P.M.

SUBJECT: Status of Micronesian Negotiations

PARTICIPANTS: Deputy Secretary Robert S. Ingersoll
Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, The President's
Personal Representative for Micronesian Status
Negotiations
James Wilson, Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations,
Department of the Interior
Leo J. Moser, Director, Australia, New Zealand and
Pacific Islands Affairs, State
Brandon H. Grove, Jr., Deputy Director, Policy
Planning Staff, State
Michael A. Samuels, Executive Assistant, Office
of the Deputy Secretary

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The conversation began with Deputy Secretary Ingersoll asking Ambassador Williams if the meeting at Guam had gone as well as had been anticipated it might. Ambassador Williams replied, yes that it had. He then proceeded to outline the conversations at Guam during early July. He said that although a bit remains to be ironed out he felt quite optimistic. He now had a complete draft agreement to work with; there were only a couple of minor gaps. He felt that the negotiations had met all of the basic goals outlined in his instructions from the President. He stated that the Micronesians were in full agreement with us in the financial area.

Deputy Secretary Ingersoll asked about the Marshall Islands. Ambassador Williams stated that of course the Co-chairman of the group that he had been negotiating with was a Marshallese; and he continues to hope that the entire negotiating committee of the

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Congress of Micronesia will endorse the draft negotiated. Once that is done, there would only remain the Palau options to be worked out. Already a survey team was being prepared to go to Palau to look into the situation during the last two weeks of August. If this matter and one pertaining to the Kwajalein Atoll were to be settled, it would be possible to have the next meeting with the Micronesians in November or December. Such a meeting, Ambassador Williams described as primarily "a signing meeting." Then the draft document could be submitted to the Congress of Micronesia for full formal approval, perhaps as early as January.

Deputy Secretary Ingersoll asked about the Marianas negotiations. Ambassador Williams responded that there was agreement in principle on both the matter of economic support levels and land. Jim Wilson was working on a more detailed series of negotiations with Micronesians on these subjects and would be heading a team out to look into the Tinian land situation. Ambassador Williams stated that he was using a September 15 deadline for the work of this subgroup. By something like September 30 -- perhaps during the first week in October -- it would be possible to have the next round of negotiations on the Northern Marianas group. Ambassador Williams stated that he felt that there was a general agreement on the issue of the separation of the Marianas District from the remainder of the Trust Territory. The people in the Marianas continue to reiterate that they consider that they have already made this basic decision and do not want any formal referendum on this subject. Ambassador Williams stated that he had discussed this matter with both the Deputy Assistant Secretary Sneider and Ambassador Barbara White. What the people on the Marianas wanted was a full agreement, then have the District Legislature approve that agreement and only then a plebiscite on the matter. At that point, it would be possible to separate out the Marianas District from the remainder of Micronesia.

Ambassador Williams stated that he foresaw only one additional problem requiring a decision from the Deputy Secretary and/or the President on the Micronesian issue in general. The people in Micronesia want a simple yes/no vote as a plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association. Others, Ambassador Williams stated, including some in the Department of State, would prefer to have an independence option on the ballot at the same time. In some cases this line of action was advocated primarily for tactical purposes; in other cases it was a matter of more substantive opinion about what the traffic would bear in the United Nations. Ambassador Williams stated that he felt that his instructions only authorized him to offer an independence option on a "qualified basis" and

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primarily as a tactic. Any offer of independence was surely a limited one, since the United States would insist on the denial of the area to the influence of other powers. Ambassador Williams reported that he had had a conversation with Mr. Sneider in which the latter agreed that the concerns of the Department of State might be minimally satisfied with a simple yes/no vote on the ballot if the Congress of Micronesia was able to notify the UN and convince that body that that was how the people of Micronesia wished the matter handled. Ambassador Williams stated in passing that many potential options had never appeared on the ballot in Micronesia and probably would not. People there had for example mentioned to him that Micronesia had, as a matter of fact, never formally rejected the possibility of commonwealth status.

Mr. Samuels asked how the situation appeared to be shaping up with respect to US Congressional support. Ambassador Williams responded that both he and Mr. Wilson felt that the results of the present negotiations would encounter no major opposition on the Hill. Ongoing developments in the process of negotiation were in fact already being informally brought to the attention of key Congressmen.

As the conversation ended, Deputy Secretary Ingersoll complimented Ambassador Williams on the progress of the talks and told him to "keep up the momentum."

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Washington, D.C. 20520

8/5/74

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TO: D - ~~Dr. Samuel~~ Mr. Padleton
FROM: S/S-S - Doug Kinney

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The attached memorandum of conversation is submitted for approval of content and the suggested distribution as noted below.

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Approve _____
Approve as amended MKS
Date: 8/8/74

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