



OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

Washington, D.C. 20240

January 10, 1974

03
5, 7

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ T O M N I

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS

Paul Warnke, Counsel, Micronesian Joint Committee on Future Status

Ambassador Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations

J.M. Wilson, Jr., U.S. Deputy Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations

TIME AND PLACE

Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations, January 8, 1974.

SUBJECT: Future Micronesian Status Negotiations

Warnke came in at Ambassador Williams' invitation to review where we stood in the wake of the seventh round of status negotiations in Washington, which had broken off in November. After describing briefly the progress achieved in the December separate talks with the Marianas, Ambassador Williams reviewed the results of his Saipan meeting with Senator Salii on December 19. He noted the change in Salii's attitude, his desire to resume negotiations in the spring following the upcoming session of the Congress of Micronesia and the agreement reached to have technical experts meet informally in Saipan during the forthcoming session of the Congress of Micronesia to exchange views and assemble data on Micronesia's future financial requirements.

Warnke indicated he was pleased with these latest developments and commented briefly on Salii's internal political troubles with the Palau delegation and others and his obvious desire to wind up the Washington discussions last November as rapidly as possible and get back home. He did not know precisely what was behind this, but said Salii was obviously under considerable pressure and had later failed to show up at Warnke's

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED
ON JUL 10 1985 UNDER PRO-
VISIONS OF E.O. 12355 BY
YNCS D.K. DOLAN, USN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OMSN

CONFIDENTIAL
UNCLASSIFIED

OMSN-52

03 411566

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanksgiving dinner, departing earlier instead for the West Coast with the Palauan Delegation. Ambassador Williams noted the criticism of Salii's Washington performance which had come from members of the Micronesian Delegation at the end of the talks and subsequently from the Palauan Delegation after it reached home, with a statement from the Speaker of the District Legislature that the U.S. financial offer was a generous one.

Warnke indicated some concern over possible mischief in the forthcoming session of the Congress of Micronesia, and surmised that Salii in his most recent optimistic public statements was attempting to avoid anticipated further criticism. He said it was his strong feeling that all members of the Joint Committee, however, with the possible exception of Tmetuchl, supported the concept of free association - even more so than 18 months ago--and were likely to continue to give their support to Salii. Warnke lamented the derailment caused by the action of a few dissidents during the 1972 special session in Ponape. Warnke said he felt this kind of action might be warded off if a definite time were set for the next round of talks with the Joint Committee in the spring. He asked what time we and Salii had in mind and was told that no exact dates were discussed but that we had in mind April or May.

Aside from finance Warnke felt the only other major hurdle would be survivability of U.S. defense rights after termination. He said he had some personal problems with the U.S. proposal (which Williams pointed out originally with the Micronesians) and would be working upon an alternative formula based on the idea of a pre-negotiated defense treaty. He felt 99 years would still cause problems but did not feel the difference between 10 and 15 years, the period of time before unilateral termination became effective, would be critical.

Warnke commented that he felt it most important to have the substance of the next discussions "pre-cooked" informally between the principals beforehand if the next formal round was to be successful. Williams agreed and pointed out we had suggested this to Salii before the last round, but he had been hard to contact and appeared reluctant to talk without the backing of the full Joint Committee. Warnke suggested he might be more willing to talk if another senior member of the committee, like Amaraich or Nakayama, were also present at the informal discussions. The possibility was discussed of an informal meeting of principals perhaps in California followed by a break to allow Salii to sell the product at home before holding a formal session designed to approve the action and accomplish necessary drafting.

UNCLASSIFIED

Ambassador Williams noted that there needed to be considerably greater agreement before we could arrive at a mutually acceptable set of figures. Warnke said many members of the committee were genuinely concerned about being cut loose too soon without an adequate economic base having been established - particularly in economic infrastructure. Wilson asked what they had in mind for a transition timetable between now and the end of the trusteeship. Warnke said some were still laboring under the illusion that all this could be done in a short period like a year or two. This frightened them and made them ask for more "take-off" money. He felt personally, however, that four to five years or more was a more realistic figure and that while a new constitution could be drafted and approved and the new government could be put into effect prior to the end of the trusteeship, the takeover from the present administration should be phased in gradually and this would take time. Ambassador Williams and Wilson noted that much could be accomplished in the way of basic capital improvements during this period under the present administrative arrangement and this should do much to relieve the apprehensions of the committee members and lower their demands for a heavily frontloaded economic aid program. Warnke agreed and said he felt it was very important that this all be discussed frankly and fully during the informal meeting of principals he had proposed.

Williams said he expected to be in the Marianas in a couple of weeks and would be seeing Salii again. He felt it would be useful to propose a schedule of informal meetings such as this and announce our intentions publicly in order to fend off irresponsible Congressional action. Warnke agreed and said he would write Salii immediately along these lines proposing that the meeting of technical experts be followed by an informal session between principals in the period just after the close of the Congressional session. If agreement could be reached there we could then proceed to the Eighth Round.