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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

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February 22, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO: EA - Acting Assistant Secretary Hummel

Subject: Micronesian Status Negotiations

There are two aspects of the Micronesian Status Negotiations I believe we must monitor with particular care.

The first concerns our assessment of US strategic interests in Micronesia. The August 27, 1973 study of the Under Secretaries Committee on this question reflected wide ranging differences of view between State and Defense on the question of what our strategic interests really are. The negotiating instructions that ensued on November 14 left these differences largely unresolved. There may, however, come a time when it will be of central importance to us to decide what our strategic interests are worth, in terms of the level of financial support and other negotiating concessions needed to maintain them. Please let me have your judgment as to when, and under what circumstances, we might need to address this issue on an interagency basis.

The second matter concerns the possibility of an independence offer to Micronesia. Such an offer is related to the need to resolve definitively the independence question within Micronesia and in the UN. Current instructions authorize the Personal Representative to make an independence offer, but do not tie it to a stated requirement for Security Council support, or to other non-strategic considerations in the negotiations. I would appreciate your recommendation as to whether, and when, the Special Representative

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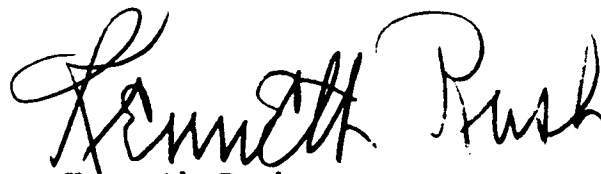
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should specifically be instructed to present the Micronesians an independence option that would guarantee essential US strategic interests, and at the same time would be likely to secure majority Security Council support.



Kenneth Rush  
Chairman

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