

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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ISA will draft reply for your signature

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NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

February 8, 1974

Dear Bill:

The enclosed memorandum from Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, describes his urgent requirement for \$45,000 to fund a joint US/Marianas "Ad Hoc Committee on Transition." The terms of reference for that committee are also attached. I believe that the early establishment of this committee is vital. I am sure you also accept its important relationship to early resolution of the future political status of the Mariana Islands, and satisfaction of Defense Department requirements in those islands.

The Ambassador's own office in Interior has, we have confirmed, insufficient funds to meet this requirement. AID cannot be a source of these funds because of legislative prohibitions, and a supplemental appropriation from the Congress is out of the question because of time factors. State, Defense and Interior are thus the logical possible sources of the required \$45,000.

Interior, because of informal Congressional injunctions against funding of the status negotiations, normally provides no support to the Ambassador's operations. In this instance, however, the Secretary of the Interior feels that the requirement is sufficiently urgent and important to justify an Interior contribution of \$15,000 from his own office budget. That budget is too small to permit full funding of the \$45,000 requirement. For valid political and legislative reasons, it is not possible for Interior to transfer any funds from the approximately \$60 million appropriated for Interior's administration of Micronesia.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/ODC/MB

The Honorable
William P. Clements, Jr.,
Deputy Secretary of Defense

REVIEWED BY BHB DATE 6/19/87

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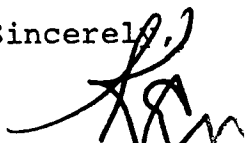
We understand the Defense Department will provide approximately \$190,000 this year for the support of the status negotiations through non-reimbursable detail of Defense officers to Ambassador Williams' staff, contributions to the budget of the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations, and through miscellaneous lesser direct assistance. State this year will provide approximately \$237,000 for similar support, including the funding of the Status Liaison Office on Saipan.

Against the above background, I am asking the Defense Department to transfer the necessary remaining \$30,000 to the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations as an additional contribution to the support of Ambassador Williams' status negotiations. Such a contribution would tend to equalize State/Defense support of Ambassador Williams' mission this year, while also directly contributing to an effort most important to the satisfaction of Department of Defense requirements in the Mariana Islands.

Beyond these considerations, I must note that the Department of State's budget is sufficiently tight this year that we could not contribute additionally to this operation. Thus, without your support, Ambassador Williams will be unable to fulfill an important commitment serving U.S. interests.

Given the urgency of this matter, I would be most grateful if you could advise me of your position on this matter within the next week or ten days.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Rush
Chairman

w/o
Enclosure:

Memorandum from
Ambassador Williams

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