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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

7 FEB 1975

In reply refer to:
1-1049/75

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting Between Ambassador Williams and Deputy Secretary
of Defense Clements

Participants:

U. S. Delegation

Ambassador F. Hayden Williams - The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiations
Mr. James Wilson - Deputy U. S. Representative for Micronesian Status
Negotiations

DOD Representatives

Mr. William P. Clements Jr. - Deputy Secretary of Defense
Rear Admiral William J. Crowe - Director, East Asia and Pacific Region, ISA
Brigadier General John G. Jones - Military Assistant to the DEPSECDEF
Captain Edward C. Whelan Jr. - Assistant for TPI/ISA

Time: 1145-1215 January 29, 1975

Place: Deputy Secretary Clements' Office, Pentagon

1. (U) Marianas Negotiations.

Secretary Clements opened the meeting with an expression of pleasure over the significant progress made in the last round of negotiations, and indicated he had confidence in Ambassador Williams' ability to bring the talks to a successful conclusion. Ambassador Williams believed both sides were pleased with the agreement worked out, and concurred with Mr. Clements that he was disappointed that the Marianas commission would not sell the land on Tinian. It was his judgment that the Marianas people would not give up title to their land so Ambassador Williams agreed to lease the land for effectively a 100 year term. The Ambassador went

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on to report that he had talked with a number of the members of the House and Senate Interior Committees and found general support for the agreements reached. There were brief discussions on whether the U. S. power of eminent domain was clouded, the average cost per acre to lease the land, and the provisions for leasing back the land to the Government of the Northern Marianas. Secretary Clements expressed strong feelings that the lease backs should be for short terms, and that provisions be made for the land to be made available to DOD, if needed. The Ambassador indicated that the majority of the leases were for five years, renewable up to five additional years and that the leases would provide for immediate return of the land if needed. Ambassador Williams then indicated he was leaving the following weekend for Saipan, hopefully to sign the Agreement, and briefly outlined the schedule of events from now until later this summer when the Marianas agreement would be presented to the U. S. Congress.

2. (U) Coordinated Congressional Consultation.

Earlier in the meeting and again at this point, Ambassador Williams stressed the need for a coordinated effort by the interested Departments in presenting the Marianas package to Congress, and he particularly looked to Defense for strong support. DOD emphasis on the strategic importance of the area is crucial to obtaining broad Congressional support, and, of course, DOD would have to get the Armed Services Committees to put up \$17.5 million for the land, the Ambassador pointed out. Also, he solicited DOD support for his efforts to obtain \$2 million for land in the Tanapag Harbor area to use as a public park. In response to Secretary Clements request for clarification on the latter point, the Ambassador explained that the \$2 million would be included in the total Marianas package presented to Congress, it would be to fund the memorial park and DOD would have the land reserved but the money would not be in the DOD budget. Secretary Clements responded, "Good! We support that." Ambassador Williams concluded this topic by suggesting that after the Marianas talks the interested Departments get together and plan a program for the Spring to present and brief the Marianas agreement to appropriate committees of the Senate and House. Secretary Clements stated that DOD was willing and ready whenever you want help. He promised that Defense would do all it could in support of the presentations.

3. (C) Micronesian Status Talks.

As a final topic, Ambassador Williams reviewed the status of the separate negotiations for the other five districts of the TTPI. He reported that the talks were sort of in limbo because members of the Congress of Micronesia were upset over the method the U. S. Government had employed in returning the former "public lands" to the people of each district. Nonetheless, the Ambassador promised after his return from Saipan to have the Inter

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Agency Group review the draft status of forces agreement ("Jurisdictional Agreement") which had been provided his office sometime ago. Once there is a Governmental position developed on the substance of the SOFA, we can begin negotiations on it with the Micronesians, he stated. Ambassador Williams pointed out the differing viewpoints in our own bureaucracy which might cause problems. For instance, a large element of the Trust Territory administration does not necessarily agree with the US position regarding the Northern Marianas. Likewise, some offices within Washington which deal with United Nation Affairs are inclined to put unrealistic requirements on the way in which any agreements are structured or formulated.

Memorandum of Conversation
Prepared by: Capt E. C. Whelan

Approved by: 

Robert Ellsworth

Date: 27/8
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

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