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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

JCSM-332-75
15 August 1975

NV

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Fragmentation in Micronesia (U)

1. (U) Reference a memorandum by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), I-6357/75, 3 July 1975, subject as above, which requested that the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend a response by the US Government to petitions from various districts of Micronesia for a political status separate from each other and from Micronesia as a whole.
2. (U) Since May 1970, seven rounds of negotiations have been held with the Joint Committee on Future Status (JCFS) for Micronesia. The Marianas District and the United States entered separate negotiations in December 1972 and completed the negotiations on 5 February 1975, when both parties signed the Northern Marianas Covenant for Commonwealth Status. The covenant is now being considered by the US Congress. The southern five districts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) are negotiating with the United States for a "free association status." These negotiations are stalemated, with no immediate prospect of progress.
3. (U) The US military land requirements for the southern five districts are:
 - a. Marshall Islands: Kwajalein Missile Range and limited use of Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls.
 - b. Palau Islands: Options for future use of Malakal Harbor and Babelthuap Island.
4. (C) The US security objectives in Micronesia, i.e., denial of the area for military use by third parties, responsibility for defense and foreign affairs, and base rights, are fundamental US negotiating goals which could be achieved either in separate or joint negotiations. Therefore, the decision to accept or reject petitions for separate status negotiations from various districts should be decided on merits other than security.

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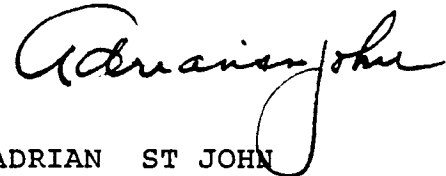
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5. (U) The precedent of separate negotiations has already been established with the recently completed Marianas negotiations. The United States will likely come under increasing criticism in the world forum if further separate negotiations are instituted.

6. (C) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that petitions for separate status negotiations from various districts of Micronesia not be rejected out of hand by the US Government. They further recommend that no US Government position be established regarding separate negotiations until after informal discussions with the petitioning districts. Separate negotiations should not be pursued unless it is clear that mutual objectives can best be achieved through separate negotiations.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



ADRIAN ST JOHN
Major General, USA
Vice Director
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