

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

4575

ACTION

November 18, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: John H. Holdridge *JH*

SUBJECT: Request by Fred Fox for a Meeting on Micronesia

Mr. Fred K. Fox has written (Tab B), requesting a chance to discuss Micronesia with you.

Fox is <sup>an</sup> atypical Texas millionaire. He is retired from the oil business, in his mid-forties. Casting about for some socially useful way to occupy his time, he has become quite an expert on Micronesia. He is modest and well-informed, and his thinking is generally solid. He has discussed Micronesia with several of us. We have not briefed him on our policy concerning the Trust Territory, but he understands it, possibly as a result of his contacts in Interior. He shares the desire to see Micronesia brought into permanent association. He seems to be thoroughly discreet and a good contact.

Fox's most recent pitch to us was that, by failing to offer the option of independence, we are making independence more attractive to the Micronesians. He thinks that we should offer permanent association, with the option being independence with the condition that there be no foreign military bases. He thinks that the prospective loss of military revenues would be a strong inducement to go for association with the US, and that the formula itself would achieve one of our objectives, which is to exclude other military power from the area.

Given your time problems, I assume that you will not want to see Fox, but I am suggesting that he write down his current thinking for your benefit.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to Mr. Fox at Tab A.

Atts.