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Authority ED 12958
By MT NARA Date 4/21/05

WH-Mr. Kissinger 700 9, 85 ✓

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

SECRET

April 11, 1970

NSC-U/SM 65a

TO : The Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Under Secretary of the Interior

SUBJECT: Micronesian Status Talks

I am enclosing a proposed decision memorandum concerning the forthcoming round of status talks with Micronesia.

Since there appears to be full agreement among the agencies on how to proceed, I propose to dispense with the meeting now scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, at 11:00 a.m. If you believe that we should meet on this matter, please advise no later than 10:00 a.m., Tuesday.

Comments and concurrences should be provided by telephone to Mr. Ruser, Ext. 22026.



Elliot L. Richardson
Chairman

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NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

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NSC-U/DM

TO : The Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Under Secretary of Interior

SUBJECT: Micronesian Status Talks

The Committee has reviewed the proposed U.S. position for the next round of talks with the Micronesian Status Delegation beginning May 4 (NSC-U/SM 65) and agrees:

1. The U.S. Delegation will state the willingness of the Administration to recommend to the Congress legislation for a constitutional convention if there is substantial agreement with the Micronesian Congress on a draft constitutional convention bill. The delegation will submit this offer orally and in writing in the form of a statement of principles and a draft constitutional convention bill.

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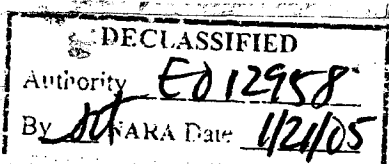
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2. The draft bill and draft statement are in substance approved, with the understanding that the inter-agency group will make further editorial and technical refinement of these documents without affecting the substance of the U.S. position.

3. In the event our proposals are received unfavorably by the Micronesians, the U.S. delegation should make clear the ultimate limits of the U.S. position along the lines pp. 16-17 of the briefing paper, viz. that the trusteeship status can not be modified or terminated without U.S. consent and that in view of our continuing strategic interests, we would be required to maintain the trusteeship indefinitely if the Micronesians do not wish to enter into a permanent association with the United States.

4. Congressional consultations should be held after we know the results of the Saipan talks inasmuch as the constitutional convention approach represents a change in the U.S. position more

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procedural than substantive and Micronesian acceptance of this offer is, in any case, not assured.

5. The Committee also noted that the prospects for the Micronesian status talks, on the basis of the information now available to the United States, must be considered uncertain. The last Micronesian submission envisaged a virtually independent Micronesia "in free association with the United States" while preserving the benefits of full and permanent association. It is not clear whether this submission was advanced for bargaining purposes or whether it represents a firmly held view of the status delegation which would be supported by a majority of the Micronesian Congress and the Micronesian community.

6. The Committee noted the lack of reliable information about the political conditions in the Territory and requested the Departments of Interior

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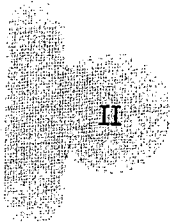
and State to work out arrangements with the High Commissioner to obtain better political reporting from the Territory.

Elliot L. Richardson
Chairman

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TAB II

MEETING ON MICRONESIAN STATUS

April 14, 1970

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Mr. Murphy,

Per conversation with
Lindsey Grant.

4/13/70