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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

SECRET

NSC-U/DM 35

April 29, 1970

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
The 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.

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.

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3. In the event the Micronesian Delegation either clearly rejects our position, or non-negotiable elements thereof, or indicates substantial reservations regarding its acceptability, the U.S. Delegation should make clear the limits of the U.S. position. Specifically, the U.S. Delegation should point out to the Micronesians that the Trusteeship Agreement cannot be terminated without our consent, that our strategic interests in the area, as reflected in Micronesia's unique status as a strategic trust, remain just as strong as they were in 1947; and that we are not therefore prepared to consent to any change in status which would endanger these interests. This should be done in a manner which would clarify our position without serving to alienate the Micronesians to a degree which would make further discussions toward an agreement impossible.

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 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


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"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 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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