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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

10308

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

TAB A

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *H*
SUBJECT: No Progress on Micronesia

The effort to bring the Micronesians to seek a close permanent relationship with the U. S. is in serious trouble. A U. S. delegation met with the Micronesian Status Commission in Saipan in early May. Micronesian demands have hardened since the last formal negotiation session in October. The Micronesians asserted that sovereignty resides in the people of Micronesia, who have the absolute right of self-determination, and who will not enter into any irrevocable compact with the U. S. If we reject those principles, they will "examine the problems of independence."

Our side presented a very liberal draft bill which would provide for a Micronesian constitutional convention, and an elected executive, but it makes clear that Micronesia would come under U. S. sovereignty.

The Micronesians refused to consider our draft and asked: would we accept Micronesian independence? and would we set a timetable to achieve it?

The meeting closed without substantive agreement, and the Status Commission will report to the Congress of Micronesia in July. Our delegation still hopes the full Congress of Micronesia may come around, but I doubt that the Micronesians will now accept any formula concerning the future relationship which could pass the U. S. Congress.

Interior is briefing Congress. The Interagency Group concerned with Micronesia will be examining next steps. If rebuffed in July, we will need to consider whether to attempt to close off the whole debate about future status, or to embark on a new policy line such as a district-by-district plebiscite. (The Marianas, strategically the most important district of all, voted for union with Guam last November, and the Saipan Legislature formally made this proposal to you -- Tab A.)

Attachment

SECRET

*probably good idea
(or get a good team
of Hawaiians out
- then to sell
statehood with
Hawaii*

ct
la

cc. "reintegration with Guam; and

23. WHEREAS, Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations provides as

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