

Authority E.O. 12958
By AB NARA Date 1/19/05

24372

ACTION
December 16, 1970

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE

SUBJECT: Political Status Negotiations with Micronesia:
Appointment of President's Personal
Representative

At Tab A is a memorandum from you to the President informing him of the difficulties being encountered in the negotiation of future political status with Micronesia and recommending an appointment of a Presidential Personal Representative with rank of Ambassador to move these negotiations along. (The titles would make the negotiator's position clear; he would be funded by Interior.) You will recall that you discussed with Under Secretary Irwin the desirability of dealing with the TTPI issue along these lines.

There is now some urgency in moving the TTPI negotiations along. We have learned that Congressman Udall of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, who is presently traveling in Micronesia, has stated that he is contemplating the introduction of new legislation providing for the establishment of a Congressionally determined Commission for the Negotiation of Future Political Status with Micronesia since, "the Executive Branch is failing to carry out this responsibility."

At the end of your memorandum to the President is a list of possible candidates from which to select the negotiator.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the attached memorandum to the President.

JHH:HL:vbs 12/16/70

SECRET

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By **AB** NARA Date **1/19/05**

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SECRETACTION**MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT****FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER****SUBJECT: Political Status Negotiations with Micronesia:
Appointment of a Negotiator**

We are facing increasing difficulties in trying to reach agreement with the Micronesians on their future political status in association with the U. S. In fact, Micronesian attitudes seem to be hardening against any type of association which we would consider satisfactory, and there is a real need to push the negotiations along in a businesslike manner at whatever pace the Micronesians will sustain and match. Micronesia, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, will be the only remaining UN Trusteeship after New Guinea becomes independent in 1972 or 73, and the Micronesians are increasingly desirous of regularizing their status with us.

An important part of the problem stems from the handling of the negotiations within the Executive Branch of the U. S. Government. Since Micronesia is an Interior responsibility, Interior has been carrying on what amount to complex international negotiations, an unfamiliar task for the Interior bureaucracy for which they show no particular appetite. International negotiations are ordinarily carried out by State, but since whatever agreement we reach with Micronesia would have to be presented to the Congress through the Committees with which Interior ordinarily deals on territorial matters, State should not take titular primacy. The Defense role is limited to insuring proper safeguarding of our present and future modest land needs in Micronesia for military bases.

I therefore believe it has become necessary for the conduct of the negotiations with Micronesia to become fixed in a single individual who would have direct access to the White House while receiving his instructions through the existing inter-departmental committee structure. This individual would need to be someone with considerable stature, since he would be dealing not only with the Micronesians but would be required to maintain a good working relationship with the Congress. State would welcome the appointment of such a negotiator; Interior's position is less clear.

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At Tab A is a list of names furnished by Under Secretary Irwin. I have looked this over and believe that the individuals indicated below would all be suitable. These names have been discussed with Harry Fleming's office, from which formal clearance will be obtained before approaching any of the individuals named.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That you approve the appointment of a President's Personal Representative, with the personal rank of Ambassador, for the negotiation of political status with Micronesia; all his expenses to be borne by Interior.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

That you indicate below those individuals you deem appropriate for such a responsibility.

Edmund Gullion

Retired Ambassador, Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, has previously undertaken missions abroad for this administration and is known to be willing to serve again.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

David M. Kennedy

Outgoing Secretary of Treasury, to be Ambassador-at-Large.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Robert Murphy

Retired Ambassador, now Chairman of the Board of Corning Glass International, a veteran negotiator with a good reputation in the Congress.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

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SECRETHerman Phleger

Former Legal Advisor in State under Eisenhower Administration,
advantage of being a west coast resident. (May be too advanced
in age to do this.)

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Frank Haydn Williams

President of the Asia Foundation, former Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Defense (ISA) in the Eisenhower Administration,
advantage of being a west coast resident.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

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