

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

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
 WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN... *[Handwritten mark]*

ACTION

November 1, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
 FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *[Handwritten initials]*
 SUBJECT: Proposed White House Sponsorship of
 Secretary Morton's Visit to the Trust
 Territories of the Pacific Islands Next Month

As you may know, Ambassador Haydn Williams, your Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, made considerable progress in the just-completed first round of the renewed negotiations on the future political status of the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (TTPI). He succeeded in inducing the Micronesian representatives to focus on the practicalities of the sensitive problems of land, Federal powers, and unilateral termination, and thus frustrated the efforts of the more radical Micronesian leaders to force a confrontation and move toward immediate independence. Williams also was able to avoid going beyond the first of four positions which you approved for the negotiations.

To capitalize on this progress and prepare for the next round of negotiations being planned for some time after the first of the year, Ambassador Williams has proposed, and Secretary Morton has agreed, that the Secretary visit the TTPI next month. Ambassador Williams has asked, however, that Secretary Morton's visit be made a White House mission in order to provide the justification for the Department of Defense's (DOD) furnishing an aircraft for the trip at no expense to Interior. Secretary Morton has said that, given his tightly restricted travel budget, he cannot make the trip unless a DOD aircraft is provided. (Ambassador Williams' request to General Haig is at Tab A.)

Ambassador Williams expects that the trip, which Secretary Morton hopes to begin November 10, would accomplish the following:

-- Secretary Morton's visit would help offset the widely-held belief among Micronesians that, given the substantial shortcomings of our administration in the Trust Territories, the U.S. Government is indifferent to their fate.

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-- His visit would put him in a much stronger position for testifying in upcoming hearings on the Trust Territories before the House Interior Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs chaired by Congressman Phillip Burton. Mr. Burton, who tends toward the ultra-liberal and is highly critical of U. S. administration of the Territories, plans to visit the TTPI about Thanksgiving himself, and thus would have a considerable advantage on Secretary Morton if he does not make the trip.

Under Secretary of State Irwin has also indicated his support for Secretary Morton's trip.

Recommendation:

That you approve Secretary Morton's trip to the Trust Territories as a White House mission, for which the Department of Defense will provide an aircraft without reimbursement by the Department of Interior.

Approve  Disapprove _____

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