



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

November 22, 1971

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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman, Under Secretaries Committee

From: Arthur W. Hummel, Jr., Chairman, Interagency Group
for Micronesian Status Negotiation *AWH*

Subject: Micronesian Status Negotiations -- Public Relations
Problems

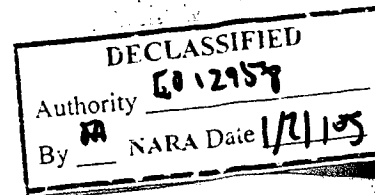
This memorandum is transmitted in accordance with instructions I have received from Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, who is absent from Washington at this time.

During recent weeks, following the Micronesian status negotiations held in Hawaii October 4-12 (reference Ambassador Williams' report to you dated October 21, 1971), reports show that the talks have been received generally rather favorably in Micronesia. However, some elements hostile to U.S. Government interests have been producing and distributing materials that attempt to negate, often by deliberate distortions, the progress achieved in the talks.

The criticisms and distortions come from two main sources: (1) some Micronesians who are committed to achieving complete independence for Micronesia and (2) a small organization of Americans calling themselves the "Friends of Micronesia" who distribute a newsletter from headquarters in Berkeley and Boston. Their attacks address a number of the positions and statements of the U.S. side at the Hawaii talks, and try to show that the talks were a failure and that U.S. proposals were unreasonable.

In our open society a certain amount of this sort of activity is, of course, to be expected. This memorandum will not attempt to treat all the distortions that have appeared, but rather is addressed to one important area of distortion and to ways of minimizing it.

In recent testimony before the U.S. Senate on the Okinawa Reversion Treaty Senator Case used materials, apparently from the "Friends of Micronesia," as the basis for questions (in one instance directly and in another through Senator Sparkman) on Micronesia. Later, hostile elements in Micronesia distorted one of the U.S. official's responses,



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a response that was proper and factual in itself, as grounds for charging that the U.S. land requirements in Micronesia that were outlined in the Hawaii talks were "lies" because the U.S. acknowledged the possibility that consideration might be given to moving some facilities from Okinawa to Micronesia.

Another issue that the "Friends of Micronesia" and others have been pressing is the allegation that the U.S. intends to place a nuclear weapons storage facility and a nuclear submarine base in new locations in Palau in Micronesia.

Without taking issue with any U.S. statements made to date, it is recommended that U.S. officials when queried about Micronesia seek to make clear some or all of the following points, as appropriate:

1. Negotiations toward ending the U.N. Trusteeship over Micronesia, in which the U.S. is the Administering Authority, are continuing with good prospects for success.

2. In those negotiations the U.S. side has outlined in some detail the limited U.S. military land requirements that are foreseen, and those requirements remain firm. The U.S. Government has no intention to add any requirements that were not outlined at the Hawaii talks in October.

3. While negotiations with Micronesia are still in progress U.S. officials not directly involved will not be commenting in detail on the substance of the proposals by either side or the reactions by either side to those proposals.


Arthur W. Hummel, Jr.