NSC 35237

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

November 30, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

FROM:

JOHN A. FROEBE, JR.

SUBJECT:

Ambassador Williams¹ Progress Report to the President on the Third Round of Talks with Micronesian Leaders on the Future Political Status of Micronesia

At Tab I is a proposed memorandum from you to the President forwarding Ambassador F. Haydn Williams' progress report describing the progress he made in the third round of talks with Micronesian leaders on the future political status of Micronesia. The talks, held in Hawaii October 4-12, were intended to clarify differences and lay the groundwork for a settlement.

Ambassador Williams succeeded in keeping the discussions focussed on the practicalities of the central issues -- land, Federal powers, and unilateral termination -- and avoiding a confrontation on the Micronesians' Four Demands (most importantly on the question of unilateral termination), thus frustrating the efforts of radicals in the islands. Williams also achieved some narrowing of the differences on the central issues, with the major sticking point continuing to be that of unilateral termination.

The next round of talks is being discussed for next March in Saipan. In the meantime, Ambassador Williams is continuing his informal discussions with several Micronesian leaders and his consultations with Congress. Also, Secretary Morton will be visiting the Trust Territory in January.

At Tab B is a proposed press release announcing his submission of his report to the President. It would also release to the press his letter to the President and the attached summary and transcript of the third round of talks, which Ambassador Williams believes will help correct distortions of the negotiations which are circulating in the Trust Territory.

CONFIDENTIAL

2

Recommendations:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

That you approve the draft press release at Tab B.

Disapprove