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Authority

E.O. 12958

By AB

NARA Date 1/19/05

NSC 35232

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

November 30, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

FROM:

JOHN A. PROEBE, JR. *JAF*

SUBJECT:

Proposed Call on You by Delegation  
of Micronesian Leaders

Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, has strongly recommended that you receive a delegation of 25 Micronesian leaders who are attending the White House Conference on Aging. The group will be here through December 2. Included in the group are seven of the most influential local leaders in the Trust Territory, among them key figures in four of the six districts on whom we will depend in the future to work out land use arrangements for our military base needs. Ambassador Williams argues that your meeting, however briefly, with the group will give substantial support to our current political status negotiations by:

-- Helping restore confidence that the U. S. Government does not take the Micronesians for granted and is not interested in the Territory only for its basing potential -- an impression they have gained from the inadequacies of our administration of the Trust Territory in the past two decades. This image has undoubtedly strengthened the demands of some Micronesian leaders for the right to terminate any association with the U. S. unilaterally, the major problem in our current negotiations.

-- Laying to rest unfavorable publicity generated in Micronesia by former Secretary Hickel's allegation that you were indifferent to the fate of the islanders.

-- Satisfying the expectations stimulated among these relatively unsophisticated but locally influential persons by the fact that they were invited to the White House Conference by the President personally, because of which they have come bringing presents for the President -- including an elaborate carved "story board" portraying an important folklore episode -- and anticipating a courtesy reception by a ranking member of the White House staff.

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I agree with Ambassador Williams that your seeing the group briefly would assist materially to strengthen our hand with Micronesian local leaders in general. As a group these more traditional leaders are more sympathetic to our position than most of the better-educated Micronesians in their Congress and with whom we deal over the negotiating table. We will need to depend on these local leaders in any plebiscite on the Compact we negotiate as well as for many of the implementing arrangements we work out pursuant to the basic agreement.

Recommendation:

That you authorize me to arrange with Coleman Hicks a time for the Micronesian delegation to call on you.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

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