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December 28, 1971

**MEMORANDUM FOR: RON ZIEGLER
JERRY WARREN**

FROM: LES JANKA

SUBJECT: Press Release on Micronesia Talks

Attached is the approved Press Release with backup Q's & A's for Ambassador Williams' report on the third round of talks on the status of Micronesia.

The release is to be made at 4:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, December 29. The full 150 page report of Ambassador Williams should also be released at that time.

Please advise if there are any problems.

cc: Coleman Hicks for info.

LJ:ms:12/28/71

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DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, President Nixon's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, November 24 submitted to the President his report on the talks held at Hana, Maui, Hawaii, October 4-12.

This was the third round of talks between representatives of the Micronesian Congress and U. S. negotiators for the purpose of determining the future political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Previous meetings were held in Washington in October 1969, and on Saipan in May 1970.

Ambassador Williams reported that these latest meetings brought significant progress in several major areas, but that one important matter -- the means of termination of a future relationship -- remains to be solved.

The trusteeship, the only one designated a strategic trusteeship by the United Nations, is administered by the United States under an agreement with the Security Council. Ambassador Williams' delegation consisted of representatives of the Department of State, Defense, and Interior, the last being responsible for administration of the Trust Territory. Ambassador Williams reports directly to the President.

The United States made a number of new proposals at Hana, in response to issues Micronesians had previously set forth as of greatest

importance to them, e. g., control of their land, and the future development of laws in Micronesia.

Neither side had the expectation of resolving all outstanding issues during the Hana talks, which were, in fact, described by both sides as means to lay groundwork for a future settlement. Ambassador Williams concluded in his letter to the President:

"We believe that the basis for a mutually-beneficial and enduring relationship between the United States and Micronesia exists. We will continue to work for an agreement which will recognize, respect, and further the long-term interests and welfare of the people of Micronesia and which will also serve our own requirements and obligations in the Pacific Ocean Area in the years ahead."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question:

When will the next round of talks be held and where?

Answer:

The talks are tentatively scheduled for Saipan. The time has not been agreed on yet, but it will probably be sometime reasonably early next year.

Question:

Would you comment on reports of growing U. S. military land requirements in Micronesia and plans for a submarine base?

Answer:

We defined the extent of our needs during the third round of talks in Hawaii, and stated that any additional requirements resulting from emergencies would be resolved with the Micronesian representatives through mutually agreed-on mechanisms.

Question:

Would you comment on reports that the U. S. is establishing a nuclear storage area in the Trust Territory?

Answer:

It is U. S. policy neither to confirm nor deny the existence of nuclear weapons at overseas locations.

Question:

Would you comment on reports circulating in Micronesia and Hawaii that the U. S. basically intends to hold onto effective control in Micronesia, given the area's strategic military importance.

Answer:

The U. S. is committed under the terms of the U. S. trusteeship arrangement to move the Trust Territory of

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the Pacific Islands toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate. We fully intend to fulfill that commitment, and are carrying forward our discussions with Micronesian representatives in an effort to find a mutually agreeable solution that will meet the essential interests of both Micronesia and the United States.

Question:

Is it true that the U. S. is opposed to Micronesian unilateral termination of the Compact of Association that might be concluded?

Answer:

The U. S. representative at the recent Hawaii talks proposed that such a Compact be terminated by mutual consent and after an agreed period of years. We are continuing to discuss our differences on this point with Micronesian representatives.