

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 25, 1973

SECRET

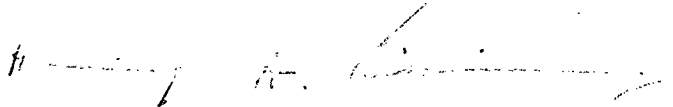
MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Micronesian Status Negotiations

The President has reviewed your memorandum of December 4, 1972 regarding the Micronesian status negotiations. He appreciates your concerns as to the constancy of Micronesian intentions in the negotiations. He noted, however, that as a practical matter the negotiations have been recessed and will not resume until this March at the earliest, while in the meantime the talks with the Mariana Islands representatives have already begun.

The President also is aware that an interdepartmental reassessment of where we stand in the negotiations is underway, which will include development of options for our position on the independence question and on other aspects of the talks. He plans to consider the study as soon as it is completed, and before the negotiations with the Micronesian representatives (other than those from the Marianas) resume.


Henry A. Kissinger

SECRET

CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED
YEAR INTERVALS AND DECLASSIFIED ON DEC. 31, 1980.

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

December 12, 1972

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

FROM:

JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE *John H. Holdridge*

SUBJECT:

Secretary Laird's Views on Micronesian
Status Negotiations

At Tab I is a draft memorandum from you to the President attaching a memorandum to him from Secretary Laird recommending that the Micronesian Status Negotiations be immediately adjourned sine die, and that we strive to complete our separate negotiations on the Mariana Islands as quickly as possible. The memorandum argues that the Micronesian Congress' recent repudiation of the partially completed draft Compact on Free Association and the subsequent action of its negotiators at the last negotiating round, together with several other recent adverse developments in Micronesia, require such a move on our part.

Secretary Laird's recommendation has essentially been overtaken by the Micronesian decision to delay the next negotiating round until at least ^{the end of} next March. As regards the Marianas negotiations, the first session ^{of this} ~~these~~ begins December 13, and every effort will be made to move the Marianas negotiations forward in a positive way.

Concerning the specifics of Secretary Laird's rationale, we have commented that they would seem to over-interpret recent Micronesian actions, and that, in any event, Ambassador Williams is undertaking, in cooperation with State, Defense, and Interior, a basic reassessment of where we stand in the negotiations with Micronesia (except for the Marianas) and recommendations thereon. The study will be ready for the President's consideration within the next few months, and will give us a basis for proceeding in the next negotiating round with the Micronesians.

Attached to the memorandum to the President is a proposed reply from you to Secretary Laird informing him that the President has reviewed his memorandum and appreciates his concerns. It also notes that the President will review our negotiating position when he receives the results of the inter-departmental study.

Secretary of Defense

SECRET

DEC 31, 1980

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Recommendation:

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

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

(8335)

A
By _____ NAKA Date 1/4/79

SECRET

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

Secretary Laird's Views on Micronesian
Status Negotiations

At Tab B is a memorandum to you from Secretary Laird recommending that the Micronesian Status Negotiations be immediately adjourned sine die, and that we strive to complete our separate negotiations on the Mariana Islands as rapidly as possible. Secretary Laird's rationale includes:

-- A special session of the Congress of Micronesia last September repudiated the partially completed draft Compact of Association we negotiated with the Micronesian Future Status Committee last July, and also instructed the Committee to negotiate an independence option -- along with the Free Association option. Subsequently, the Micronesian negotiators reflected this shift in position at the sixth negotiating round held in October.

-- In November, local leaders in the Palau District (where we have military land requirements) issued a declaration against U.S. military use of Palauan land.

-- There are wide differences between the U.S. and Micronesian views on the question of procedures for terminating unilaterally the Compact of Free Association and the survivability of those U.S. military base rights still to be negotiated.

-- The OEO-subsidized Micronesian Legal Services Corporation along with some Peace Corps members are continuing their anti-U.S. military interference and harassment.

Secretary Laird's recommendation has essentially been overtaken by the Micronesian decision to delay the next negotiating session until at least next March, after the next session of the Micronesian Congress which is to be convened next month. We began negotiations with the Mariana

Secretary of Defense.....
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Islands District representatives ^{earlier this month} [on December 13] as planned. (As you will recall, this separate negotiation has been undertaken as a result of the Mariana Islands' decision to seek a closer and permanent association with the U. S.)

As regards the specifics of Secretary Laird's rationale, we question whether the Micronesian Congress and the Joint Future Status Committee have re-neged on earlier understandings to the extent suggested. What we believe their actions of recent months have done is to raise substantial questions as to whether they are changing their basic approach. It was for this reason that Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, your personal representative for the negotiations, at the sixth round proposed a recess in the negotiations in order to allow both sides to reassess the situation -- as he reported to you in his letter of October 27, 1962).

With respect to the OEO and Peace Corps involvement alluded to by Secretary Laird, the problem seems to lie much more with the OEO legal services program than the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps problem essentially was solved with the departure of two of the agency's lawyers who had been assigned to Micronesia. At the same time, at least two other Peace Corps lawyers who had served in Micronesia are now working, very constructively, on the status negotiations in the Department of Interior here. The difficulties for our negotiations generated by OEO legal services to individual Micronesians have probably increased, and will be addressed in the study mentioned below.

A study reassessing the situation and addressing the independence question fully is currently being done by Ambassador Williams and the Departments of State, Defense, and Interior, and should be ready for your consideration within the next few months.

At Tab A is a draft memorandum from me to Secretary Laird informing him that you have reviewed his memorandum and appreciate his concerns. It also notes that you intend to review our negotiating position when you receive the results of the inter-departmental study.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the draft memorandum to Secretary Laird at Tab A.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

SECRET

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By NAKA Date 1/4/73

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DOC SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

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 S CODE WORD _____ RES DATA _____
 TS _____ SENSITIVE _____

SUBJECT: Expresses concern over US inaction in Minonesian Status Negotiations

REFERENCE: S/S _____ OTHER X 5710 NOT XEROXED _____

APP'TS: PRES _____ HAK _____ TALKER _____ MEMCON _____ DATE REQ. _____

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	ACTION	INFO	REC CY	
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STAFF SECRETARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MEMO FOR PRES. _____ (X)
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LR PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DUE DATE: <u>12/7</u>
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CONGRESSIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

INTERNAL/INTERIM ROUTING

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