



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

December 7, 1972

Action Memorandum

To: The Chairman, Under Secretaries Committee

From: Franklin Haydn Williams, The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

Subject: Micronesian Status Negotiations

Since I sent you my memorandum of November 22, 1972, on this subject several things have occurred which render academic the question of proceeding in the near future to a seventh round of negotiations with the Micronesian Joint Future Status Commission (JFSC).

In that memorandum I stated that no final decision would be made on the time of any future meetings until discussions could be held with the Chairman of the JFSC to determine whether or not satisfactory arrangements could be worked out. I have now been advised by him that there are difficulties of such a nature as to make it impossible from their standpoint to resume negotiations before the Congress of Micronesia meets. No seventh round accordingly can be held before March 1973 at the earliest.

Meanwhile, as indicated in my November 22 memorandum we are proceeding with plans to meet on December 13 and 14 in Saipan with the Marianas delegation to open talks officially leading to their permanent association with the United States.

Whether or not we will be able to proceed in the immediate future with the Palau land survey is a matter I will discuss with Micronesian officials during my forthcoming trip.

I hope that favorable action can be taken on my recommendation for a study in depth of the "independence option" and that it can be presented for decision by the President in timely fashion so that his decision can be reflected in the U.S. position to be drawn up for the next formal negotiating round with the Micronesians.