

January 23, 1973

Memorandum

To: Mr. Michael B. Smith, Staff Assistant, The White House  
Subject: Micronesia - letter from former High Commissioner, Mr. Midkiff

Attached is a proposed reply from you to Mr. Midkiff's letter of December 26 to the President commenting on his recent trip to Micronesia and giving his views on future U.S.-Micronesian relations.

I believe that a short, non-committal reply is in order in view of the unexceptionable nature of Mr. Midkiff's comments and the fact that Ambassador Williams, who encouraged Midkiff's trip, will not return from his extended trip to the Western Pacific until mid-February.

151

J.M. Wilson, Jr.  
U.S. Deputy Representative for  
Micronesia Status Negotiations



Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

Mr. Wilson Chron

*Comb. Chron  
cc: J.M. Wilson  
100-1-106010  
SA Poffins  
J.M. Wilson*

Dear Mr. Midkiff:

Your letter of December 26, 1972, to the President reporting on your recent trip to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was very much appreciated. The area is one in which the President has had a personal interest for a number of years. Your recommendations accordingly will be considered with the greatest of care and attention.

In particular you should know that a special study of our relations with Micronesia is currently being done under the direction of Ambassador Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations. The observations and constructive suggestions contained in your letter are therefore particularly timely. You may be sure they will be taken fully into account during the course of that study, which will contain a series of important recommendations for the President.

The specific problems you cite are, of course, being given priority attention by High Commissioner Johnston and other responsible officials in Saipan.

As you may be aware, Ambassador Williams is now on an extended trip in Asia and will undoubtedly have further comments for you on his return.

Sincerely yours,

Michael B. Smith  
Staff Assistant

