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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Bldg
Room 361
Washington, D.C. 20506

February 27, 1973

Mr. Dennis J. Doolin
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
International Security Affairs
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20310



Dear Dennis:

Thank you for your review of the Roi-Namur negotiations and for your options summary. I concur that we should conclude a settlement that will protect our security interests in the Kwajalein Atoll and I appreciate the complexity of the problem.

In view of the passage of time, Options 3 and 4, presented in your paper, have merged. As to our course of action, I lean toward Options 3/4 with some suggested modifications. First, it would, for obvious reasons, be advantageous to have the negotiating process with the Marshallese land representatives continue without a total breakup until after the Trusteeship Council meeting in early June. Second, it appears to be in our interests to take the initiative in further negotiations. By pressing for another meeting in the near future, I believe we can present a positive image to the Micronesian people and demonstrate our good faith. Moreover, this approach will hopefully forestall any drastic steps by Congressman Balos and his followers.

Should this fail we have little choice but to institute condemnation proceedings in order to protect our already established security interests in Roi-Namur. This step clearly should be postponed until after the Trusteeship Council adjourns. This approach would have the advantage of placing the controversial issue of payment (and only that issue) before a neutral forum, the court system, and hopefully would result in a satisfactory solution. Once this stage is reached, however, we run the risk of precipitating further resentment and even some drastic counter-action such as Mr. Balos has been threatening. We have little in the way of alternatives, however, if attempts to reach an amicable agreement fail.

I have, of course, limited my response to your inquiry to the major policy issues. I believe that the procedural questions such as the role of officials of the Trust Territory administration and the applicability of the "hold harmless clause" within certain agreements between the TTPI and the U.S. Government are within the responsibilities of the Department of Interior and should be addressed by that group. Officials in the Office of Territories have noted that it is their intention to resolve these issues within the next few days after consultation with officials from the Trust Territory Government.

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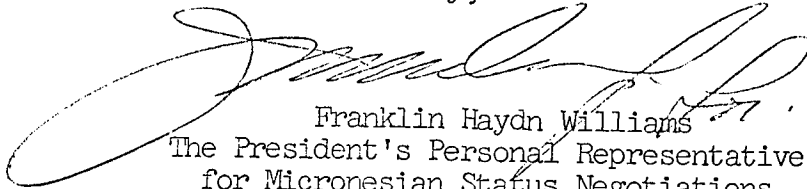
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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By HR, NARA, Date 2/23/99

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I have presented this approach to the related departments for their views and have received their support and final clearance.

Sincerely,



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

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