

Kirby's pp.

Mr Wilson

any comments?

H.

Looks fine, but
may have to go to
"independence must
be ruled out" formally
& really present

For possible inclusion in the
Ambassador's briefing book for
Majuro and other stops along
the way.

HEK

CC - X AMB
JW
WC
HEK
HEK - CHRON

[April 1973]

U.S. POSITION ON INDEPENDENCE FOR MICRONESIA -- DRAFT TALKING POINTS

-- At the Barber's Point round of talks last October, the JCFS, pursuant to SJR 117 adopted by the COM the previous month, asked the U.S. Delegation to consider discussing with at some subsequent date an independence option in addition to the compact of free association then and now under negotiation. The U.S. Delegation agreed to study the matter, and the American Government is currently doing so.

-- We understand that the JCFS believes, in any case, that the first priority in the future status negotiations should continue to be the preparation of a compact of free association which can be put to the people of Micronesia in a plebiscite, a judgment with which the U.S. agrees. When asked at Barber's Point what the JCFS would consider the appropriate elements of an independence option, the JCFS chairman explained his Committee's order of priorities by stating that to discuss independence at that time would be "premature and diversionary" from the main task of completing the compact. From their recent statements, we understand the Chairman and his Committee still consider the negotiation of a compact meeting the mutual needs and interests of the people of Micronesia and the U.S. to be the major item of business in our negotiations. The U.S. Government is certainly prepared to cooperate to that end.

-- (To be used only if questioned closely about the stand the U.S. might ultimately take on an independence option): Obviously, we continue to believe that a compact of free association would best create

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a harmonious, enduring relationship accomodating satisfactorily Micro-
nesia's special circumstances and the many common interests shared
by the Islands and the U.S. Without wishing to rule out in advance
any particular status solution, it is hard to imagine consensus on one
which did not both accomodate those common interests, and appear consis-
tent with U.S. international obligations and minimum strategic interests
in the area.

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