

July 5, 1973

To: W. J. Crowe, Jr.

From: J.M. Wilson, Jr.

Comments herewith. I have real problems with independence section. It asks wrong questions in light of Sallii position. Real question is what should FHW's response be if he is asked to negotiate an independence option. He could say a variety of things in the alternative.

1. No. we'll never give you that option.
2. No, Not now. But under free association you can be independent if you want to after termination (subject to defense survivability) and we can negotiate any new terms when that time comes around.
3. No. But if you reject free association in the plebiscite we will be willing to talk independence as one of several possible alternatives (or, yes, but not now).
4. Yes, we'll do it right now. (There may be others).

These are not really addressed. Instead, we say, if an independence option is offered, what kind of independence should it be? We haven't got to that point yet. To be sure, we need to have an idea of what kind of independence we are talking about before we can address the first set of alternatives intelligently. But this paper doesn't begin to answer the questions which are most likely to be put to us. Nor does it adequately explain the problem to the President in these terms. We're much too worried about the damned U.N.. That should come much later, and after we worry about how to phrase the question on the free association referendum.

