

4/2/74

CARMEL Talks- April 1974

1. First Mtg - JMW
2. Second Mtg - JMW
3. First Mtg. - Amb

*J.M.W.  
Thron  
Dale*



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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

CARMEL TALKS ON MICRONESIAN STATUS  
SECOND MEETING, Tuesday, April 2, 1974  
(10:00 a.m.)

Participants:

Micronesia

Senator Salii  
Congressman Silk

United States

Ambassador Williams  
Mr. Wilson

Ambassador Williams opened the substantive discussion by asking Salii what he considered to be the highlights of the recently concluded session of the Congress of Micronesia. Salii said the first major item was the constitutional convention bill, which had finally passed with a series of amendments. He had opposed some of these personally - the early June date for election of delegates in particular - but had not felt it expedient to oppose them publicly for fear of endangering the bill itself. Silk said the June date was necessary in the Budget Committee's view in order to avoid losing the funds the end of the fiscal year (NOTE: this makes no sense-JMW). Salii also was of the opinion there were too many delegates. He felt the convention itself should not be held until next spring (April) after the new Congressional elections and after the Congress had met in regular session. Meanwhile an intensive program of political education was required. He had already been in touch with the Education For Self Government task force to see what could be done.

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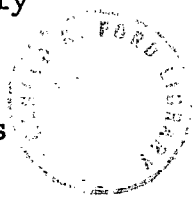


Salii observed that the failure of the House to pass the public land legislation bill was a major disappointment, but he hoped this could be remedied in the special session of the Congress requested for September/October. Silk blamed part of this failure on the late arrival of the Senate Bill in the House, Salii replied that both houses had started the bill at the same time but the House had waited until the Senate finished. The only really difficult problem he could see was Ataji Balos' insistence on deleting the eminent domain powers of the central government. Wilson said there were other features of the Bill as it had partially emerged which gave us serious difficulties, as well, among them the handling of military retention land, the treatment of prior claims, and the delay in completion of military land negotiations until after the Compact of Free Association had been approved in a plebescite. On the latter score, Ambassador Williams reminded Salii of what had been said in previous sessions about no signature of the Compact until U.S. land requirements had been met. He asked what the sentiment was now for having the public lands returned by Secretarial Order rather than COM action. Salii thought it would be preferable to wait and see if the Congress would not pass an acceptable bill in the special session.

Another failure in Salii's opinion was the Congressional inaction on revenue sharing which had resulted in the subsequent resolution of the Marshalls' Nitijela asking for

separate status negotiations. He felt, however, that the Marshalls could still be brought back in and indicated the COM leadership was prepared to compromise on the revenue sharing issue at least to the extent of a 30-40 per cent return to the districts. Indeed the Senate would be prepared to go along with 50%. Silk, indicating he was prepared to support the COM action on the whole issue, said Dominick would settle for 30-40 per cent in the House. Silk said further that Congress had purposely delayed action on the allocation of lands to the districts this fiscal year in anticipation of the passage of some sort of revenue sharing bill and that all this could now be handled in the special session. (NOTE: this was a different line from that taken by Silk with Ambassador Williams the night before when he had indicated the Marshalls were serious about separate negotiations and that his own personal preference was for the Marshalls' line, suggesting that the Marshalls might in fact prefer not only separate status but a status closer to the U.S. than that being considered by the JCFS).

Ambassador Williams observed that the U.S. position on the matter had not changed from what he had said publicly last May in Majuro and that Mary Trent had just reaffirmed this in a letter to Andon Amaraich in reply to the latter's query on this score. Salii suggested that a positive official U.S. public statement would be very useful. Ambassador Williams said we continued to hope the Marshalls and Carolines would find it possible to stay together and we would continue



to stand on the Majuro statement.

Ambassador Williams then proceeded to review where we felt the negotiations now stood. He noted that both sides had come a long way since talks started in Hana. Agreement had been achieved in principle on all major issues. The JCFS has acknowledged that its original four points had been met. Micronesian concern for the establishment of their own basic laws was being met through the Constitutional Convention. Concern over control of land had been met, at least by the U.S., in agreement to transfer public land to the districts if the districts so desired. The chosen Micronesian course on future status - free association - was agreed as a common goal, with the United States assuming responsibility for foreign affairs and defense.

We were now engaged in trying to devise a practical basis for putting these principles into effect, Williams said. There were three principal issues remaining - U.S. military land requirements, finance, and termination and the transition time table. We had consulted on these at the highest levels in the U.S. Government and with the Congressional leadership. All have made the assumption that the Hana-Koror agreements in principle, as now reflected in Titles I-III, remained valid and form the foundation on which the remainder of our agreement would be structured. The United States needed to know if this also represented the assumption the Joint Committee was working under and the extent to which this also reflected the viewpoint of the Congress of Micronesia and the district themselves.

After reflecting for some moments, Salii said he agreed.

On U.S. land requirements Ambassador Williams repeated what he had said in the past, that there could be no signature of the Compact until these requirements had in fact been met. He recalled the November, 1973, declaration of the Palau Chiefs and the earlier invitations to send a military survey group, without which specific U.S. requirements could not be identified. Salii said he felt it would be in the U.S.'s best interest not to push for the survey just now but to let the matter cool a bit more to see what the Congress was able to do on public land in a special session. He was confident the Chiefs would live up to their word and in fact would no longer be Chiefs if they broke their solemn pledge.

Ambassador Williams observed that we would be discussing finance and termination in practical terms at the next meeting and also tying this in with our ideas on a transition timetable and the things which needed to be done during that period. On the latter score we had studied and much appreciated Salii's efforts stated in public in his speech before the Congress following on the January meetings. Salii said this still represented his views. He felt the Compact should be completed as soon as possible and be available to those forming the new constitution in April of next year. Thereafter the Compact and Constitution would be considered together by the people and be voted on a year later at the same time. He said they would be prepared

to talk in practical terms beginning with the next meeting.  
It was agreed this would begin at 10:00 the next morning.

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