

MEMORANDUM

1788

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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GDS

ACTION

March 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: THOMAS J. BARNES ~~X~~

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Ambassador F. Haydn Williams

Ambassador Williams requested an appointment with you. He will probably want to discuss the following topics:

-- With the President's March 24 signing of the bill approving the Northern Marianas Covenant, the Ambassador may wish to renew the question of his continuing as the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations. In his last meeting with you on December 11, he informed you that after passage of the Covenant he wished to step down. He said it was increasingly difficult to continue in his double capacity as President of the Asia Foundation and as chief negotiator on the Micronesian issue. He told me March 22, however, that Senator Percy and others had urged him to stay on. He still believes he cannot carry on indefinitely with both jobs, but he apparently is willing to remain for a short period.

-- The Ambassador will probably urge continued White House support for the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations. He will likely emphasize the importance of having wide authority vested in the President's Personal Representative whether it continues to be Williams himself or a successor.

-- The Ambassador may also wish to discuss the definition of our future negotiating posture with the other districts of Micronesia. Following an NSC directive of last January, an inter-agency study on the subject is now in its third draft. We have authorized two extensions of the due date on this study and now expect to receive it in the NSC by early April. You may wish to urge the Ambassador to see that the working group, which his office is chairing, submits the report and agency recommendations by April 10.

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With PORTIONS EXEMPTED  
E.O. 12958 Sec. 1.5 ( ) b (1) (6)

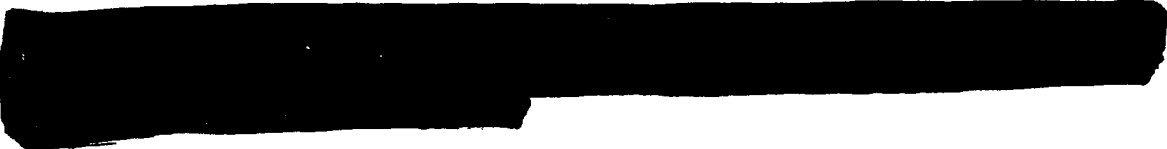
MR-NLF-00-18-4

By TTPI, NARA, Date 4/3/00  
Project HR 6/19/00



-- It is important to move ahead with reformulating our policy on this issue because the Congress of Micronesia is becoming impatient and splintering trends in some districts are growing. Ambassador Williams is thinking of making a trip sometime in April for a general discussion with the Micronesian negotiators. Messages from the field indicate that the Micronesians want to get into specifics. We believe the Ambassador should not go until the President has reviewed and acted on the recommendations, which may well alter the Ambassador's negotiating instructions.

-- The Ambassador may soon be writing to the President suggesting that the White House send a delegation to Saipan to celebrate President Ford's March 24 signing of the Covenant. Some members of Congress have expressed interest in such a trip. The actual establishment of the Commonwealth relationship with the Northern Marianas will not take place until the trusteeship ends, probably sometime in 1980 or 1981. I recommend that you tell Williams that the White House has no current plans to send a delegation to the islands but that you will look forward to considering his recommendation.



Talking Points

-- The signing of the Covenant on Wednesday was the culmination of a tremendous amount of work. We are grateful for your outstanding efforts not only in negotiating with the Micronesians but also in helping to win Congressional approval.

-- It was particularly important that not only should the people of the Northern Marianas approve the Covenant by a large majority but also that the Congress should be equally enthusiastic.

-- I know the President is pleased with your performance and that you've also established good relations with many important Congressmen.

-- We would be pleased if you would choose to continue as the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations. We understand, however, the strain that your double responsibilities have put on you. We will understand if you decide to step down.

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-- I understand the Under Secretaries Committee's working group has had to request several delays in the due date of its report and recommendations on U. S. policy in our future negotiations. I hope we can have the report soon.

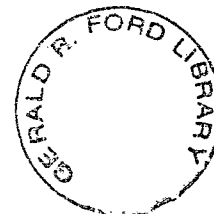
-- I believe the Micronesians are anxious to renew discussions. We should not delay; but before you talk to them again we should have the Presidential decision on your negotiating position.

-- (Only if Williams raises the issue) We have no current plans to send a delegation to Saipan for a celebration of the signing of the Covenant, but I will be glad to consider your recommendation.



-- Ideally, we should have a State Department officer there who could do extensive political reporting. The difficulty is finding an officer with sufficient interest in Micronesia.

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