

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

July 20, 1976

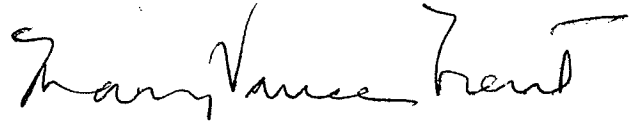
3413-9143

MEMORANDUM

To : Mr. Robert Wolthuis  
The White House

From : Mary Vance Trent  
Director, OMSN

To follow up our telephone conversation of July 19, I send you herewith some material on Ambassador Haydn Williams and his work of the last 5 years in conducting the Micronesian Status Negotiations.



Mary Vance Trent

Enclosure

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July, 1976

In March 1971, the President appointed Franklin Haydn Williams to serve as the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations with the personal rank of Ambassador. During the ensuing five years the Ambassador has carried out that assignment with rare energy, skill and dedication. Since December 1972 the Ambassador's negotiations proceeded on two tracks toward two distinct goals, and it was therefore necessary for him to conduct two parallel sets of negotiations--a particularly exacting task. One of these, the negotiations concerning the future political status of the Northern Mariana Islands, saw full fruition on March 24, 1976 in the signing by the President of Legislation for the establishment of a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America.

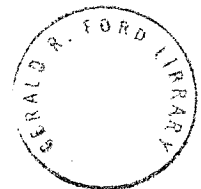
The Ambassador is continuing the other set of negotiations to determine the future political status of the Marshall and Caroline Islands. The basis underlying all of his work is the firm traditional U.S. commitment to the principle of political self-determination.

The area with which the Ambassador's negotiations are concerned is that of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands usually referred to as Micronesia. It is a vast area of some three million square miles (about the size of the continental U.S.) in the central and western Pacific, consisting of some 2,000 islands comprising three principal island chains: the Marshalls, the Carolines and the Northern Marianas. Under an

an agreement of 1947 with the United Nations the U.S. is the trustee or administering authority of this area which, under terms of the agreement, is designated a strategic trust. By Executive Order the Secretary of the Interior is the administrative agent.

While the agreement does not specify a date for termination of the trust, both the U.S. Government and the Congress of Micronesia, a popularly elected representative body set up ten years ago in a significant move toward ultimate internal self-government, consider in line with the trusteeship agreement that the peoples of the territory should be able to determine their own political future. It is toward that end that Ambassador Williams efforts are directed, bringing closer the prospect of achieving the desired goal of an early end of the trusteeship through means and provisions that will satisfy Micronesian desires and protect important U.S. security interests.

The Ambassador's Presidential appointment gave him a mission to perform, but the manner and staff to accomplish it were left for him to devise. Recognizing the direct and substantial interest of a number of government departments in the issue of the determination of Micronesian future status, he set about at once to create as his staff and interagency group, the Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations, consisting of officers seconded by the departments of State, Interior and Defense, with a Senior Advisor from the Department of Justice.





Assisted by this staff, augmented on occasion as need  
as required, the Ambassador has carried out ~~five~~<sup>Six</sup> rounds of  
negotiations with the Joint Committee on Future Status of  
the Congress of Micronesia and ~~an equal number~~<sup>five rounds</sup> with the  
Marianas Political Status Commission. The latter set is  
now concluded with the Presidential signing mentioned above.  
In addition to these formal rounds, Ambassador Williams has  
met informally countless times with the Chairmen of the  
respective status committees. Meetings have taken place  
at different sites in order to provide equitable distribution  
of travel and access: Micronesia, Guam, Honolulu, San Francisco,  
Washington. In all contacts, Ambassador Williams has been the  
US. negotiator.

The U.S. policy underlying the negotiations is the result  
of Presidential approval of interagency studies under the  
Ambassador's direction.

An equally important part of Ambassador Williams' complex  
assignment has been his responsibility with respect to U.S.  
Congressional consultation. Throughout his negotiations, he  
has kept the appropriate committees of both Houses of the Congress  
informed and has sought and received their advice and consultation.  
Prior to the Congressional vote on the Northern Marianas Covenant  
the Ambassador exerted vigorous and effective effort to assure  
that full and accurate information was available to members. The  
successful passage of the Covenant legislation by overwhelming  
vote in both Houses was the gratifying results.

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Throughout the negotiations the Ambassador has been aware of the United Nations' interest in and responsibility for the Trust Territory. He arranged for an official U.N. Mission to observe the plebiscite called last June in the Northern Marianas which by a 78.8% affirmative vote supported the Covenant. He has followed the deliberations of the Trusteeship Council with regard to the status negotiations and, as requested, has participated in informal discussions with its members as well as with the U.S. Representative on the Council.

Ambassador Williams' work has been an outstanding example of interagency collaboration which he has devised and conducted toward the complex and challenging end of meeting an international obligation of the U.S., providing an honorable, equitable and viable solution for the political status in the modern world of a 115,000 people living on 2,000 scattered islands, for whom the facts of history have made the U.S. responsible, and at the same time protecting the security interests of the U.S. in a vast area of the Pacific Ocean reaching toward the coast of Asia.

"Micronesia" encompasses the broad span sociologically and economically from the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshalls where advance U.S. weaponry is tested, to the villages of the outer islands in Yap or Palau whose people live as they have for centuries planting taro and breadfruit and fishing off the reefs. In this vast spectrum are all the problems in microcosm of the developing areas of this late twentieth century including, perhaps most importantly, the question of what shall be their external

political relationships. These are the problems for which Ambassador Williams is working out solutions appropriate to Micronesia and acceptable to the U.S. and the U.N., and for which he has already achieved a successful solution with respect to the Northern Marianas.

