



THE COUNSELOR
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

110

October 20, 1977

UNCLASSIFIED
(with CONFIDENTIAL attachment)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

From: Matt Nimetz

Subject: Micronesia

The next round of negotiations with the Micronesians takes place next week in Hawaii. This is an opportune time to inform the President of the recent progress in our relationship with them. Therefore, I recommend you initial the attached Memorandum to the President.

Attachment:

As stated.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: Cyrus Vance
SUBJECT: Micronesia Status Negotiations

We will be...
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Formal negotiations on the future of the political status of Micronesia will resume October 24 in Hawaii and this presents an opportunity to bring you up-to-date on progress in our relations with Micronesia.

— Unofficial, roundtable meetings with the Micronesians in Hawaii and in Guam aired outstanding problems and established the framework for a new round of negotiations.

— The appointment of Peter R. Rosenblatt as your Personal Representative to conduct Micronesian status negotiations was well received on the Hill and in the region. (Rosenblatt made an extensive tour of Micronesia and has developed good rapport with the Micronesian leaders)

— After extensive discussions between our experts and Micronesian leaders, a compromise bill establishing a 200-mile zone for marine resources was adopted by the Congress of Micronesia and approved by High Commissioner Adrian Winkel. This bill removes a major sore point affecting US-Micronesian relations and is a hopeful step for the future economic development of the region.

— Another open issue—a new air route between Tokyo and Saipan—has also been resolved through U.S. negotiations with Japan, which was much appreciated by the Micronesians.

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We have dealt with the issue of Micronesia
~~The problem of potential fragmentation in Micronesia and the breakdown in the negotiating mechanism was dealt with by Micronesian acceptance of a U.S. proposal to negotiate on a two-tier basis. On the multilateral tier, the U.S. will negotiate with a combined Micronesian delegation on issues affecting all of Micronesia; on the bilateral tier, we will negotiate with the Marshall Islands, with Palau and with the Congress of Micronesia (representing the four central districts of Kosrae, Ponape, Truk and Yap) on issues of specific district interest.~~

~~Negotiations between Ambassador Rosenblatt and each of the Micronesian parties produced agreement on the principle that the Micronesians will accept a free association status as the basis for the present negotiations.~~

The main U.S. objectives which Ambassador Rosenblatt will pursue at the forthcoming round of negotiations are to:

— Persuade each of the three Micronesian parties to agree to preserve common links among them in the post-trusteeship period, thereby averting a complete administrative separation and simplifying the discharge of continuing U.S. responsibilities in the area.

— Come to an understanding on the division of topics between the multilateral negotiations and the bilateral negotiations and on the pace of the talks.

In accordance with your Presidential Directive of May 5, our fundamental goals remain the following:

#1
(1) A political status of free association under which the U.S. will have responsibility for defense and foreign affairs;

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(2) A single future political status for all parts of Micronesia, with common links among the districts;

(3) Micronesian agreement on their own institutions of internal self-government in the post-trusteeship period;

and (4) Termination of the trusteeship status by 1981.

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