



THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

December 13, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR JEFFREY FARROW

FROM: Peter R. Rosenblatt

Enclosed herewith please find a draft response to Burton's November 1 letter. I have prepared this in accordance with our understanding, in light of your undertaking to Burton to send the Administration written response to his letter within a week of the December 11 meeting.

This draft obviously raises some fundamental policy issues. These will have to be considered from the standpoint of whether (a) they would succeed in neutralizing Burton's opposition and (b) they would be acceptable to the Administration as the price of such agreement. From the negotiating standpoint I think I could probably live with all of them, though Number 4 will be dicey.

I suggest that a meeting be convened ASAP to consider our approach. Please note that I will be leaving for Honolulu Tuesday afternoon to meet with the new Palauan leadership. I expect to be back Sunday, December 23.

Peter R. Rosenblatt

Attachment

cc:

Honorable James Joseph
Honorable Matthew Nimetz
Mr. Curtis Hessler
Mr. Ron Cogswell
Mr. Nick Platt
Mrs. Madeleine Albright
Mr. Donald Gregg

DRAFT

December 13, 1979

Honorable Phillip Burton, Chairman
Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino
Honorable Don H. Clausen
Subcommittee on National Parks
and Insular Affairs
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Sirs:

The Administration has given intensive consideration to the views expressed in your letter to me of November 1, 1979 and to the exchange of views which occurred at your meeting with Administration representatives on the evening of December 11.

The Micronesian political status negotiations will not be concluded prior to the 1980 national election. Conclusion of the negotiations requires agreement on wording of the Compact itself and months of negotiation on various agreements subsidiary to and dependent upon the Compact.

Negotiation of the Compact itself has reached a point where few issues of genuine substance remain to be resolved as between ourselves and the Governments of the Marshall Islands (MI) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Both governments have expressed an urgent desire to complete this phase of the negotiations at the earliest possible date.

Meaningful negotiations with Palau have not been possible recently and they will not be resumed until the newly elected Palau Legislature takes office next month. We do not know what positions the new Palauan leadership will take, but we will shortly meet with them to brief them on the negotiations.

In light of this overall negotiating situation, and in an effort to promote full agreement on U. S. objectives in the negotiations, the Administration is prepared to support the following measures:

1. The so-called "federal programs containment policy" of November 1978 will be replaced by a new policy which will be worked out with your Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

2. 

3. Section 224 of the draft Compact will be revised to [Alternative 1] express the U. S. Government's agreement to sympathetically consider requests by the Micronesian governments for extension of federal health and education programs under free association.

[Alternative 2] permit the continuation under free association of selected federal health and education

programs. We would expect to work with your committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in identifying such programs.

4. Agreement with the Micronesian parties on the text of the Compact may be memorialized, through an exchange of letters which would state that agreement on the text is subject to the subsequent conclusion of the subsidiary agreements.

5. The next round of status negotiations will probably take place in early January. The Administration hopes that the House of Representatives will agree to the inclusion of one majority and one minority representative in the U. S. delegation. A similar invitation is being extended to the Senate.

Finally, I should like to emphasize the spirit of friendship and cooperation in which the negotiations are being conducted. While no party has secured all of its objectives the Administration and, we strongly believe, each of the Micronesian parties will be prepared to testify that its essential objectives are assured by the draft Compact.

The Administration continues to look forward to an opportunity to brief you, your associates and staff with respect to the negotiations at your convenience.

Sinc