



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

February 1, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR MATTHEW NIMETZ

FROM: Peter R. Rosenblatt

SUBJECT: Hill Interest in Presidential Decision
on Micronesia Organization

In my memorandum to you of January 25 I suggested that, in implementing the President's decision to give jurisdiction over the U. S. relationship with the freely associated states (FAS) to State, State should give favorable consideration to the exercise of the interagency option contained in the President's decision. I also said that I did not believe there was any immediate time pressure on State in connection with this decision. The timing situation has since changed, as follows:

1. Tom Dunmire, the Republican staffer on Burton's Subcommittee is quoted as having declared that the President has assigned responsibility for selling the compact on the Hill to the State Department. In other words, Dunmire has received or created a garbled version of the President's decision.

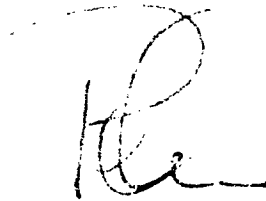
2. A number of friendly people on the Hill have heard about the decision and are becoming resentful that no official announcement of it has been made.

3. Mark Borthwick, an extremely helpful and friendly staff member on the East Asia (Wolff) Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, says that the Subcommittee staff is unanimous in its desire to recommend that Wolff hold an informational hearing on the status negotiations in April. I believe that this would be helpful to us. It would place the Administration's views on record and would serve to bury, once and for all, the Chambers-Goodman report, which is the committee's last formal entry on the Micronesia docket.

Borthwick says, however, that the committee's bid to hold such a hearing would be immeasurably strengthened if the President's decision to assign cognizance to State were public.

I feel as strongly as ever about the need for an interagency office, but I do believe that, in light of the foregoing, a prompt announcement of the President's basic decision (which is all anybody on the Hill needs for now) should be made immediately. That would still leave the question of internal State Department organization up for a decision. As to that, there remains no need for speed.

Accordingly, I believe that it would be helpful if you were to indicate your concurrence with an immediate announcement (presumably in conjunction with the announcement of the rest of the presidential decision) to Jeffrey Farrow of the Domestic Policy Staff, to whom I am sending a copy of this memorandum.



Peter R. Rosenblatt

cc: Mr. Jeffrey Farrow
Mr. Rodney Weiher
Mr. Ron Cogswell