



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SEP 10 1980

Memorandum

To: Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt
Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations

From: Assistant Secretary Designate
Territorial and International Affairs

Subject: Your memorandum of August 29, 1980.

In your memo of August 29, 1980, you expressed your views upon learning that Mr. Stovall, counsel for the Federated States of Micronesia, had possession of papers from the High Commissioner's office regarding a proposed political education program. As has been made clear to all Federal officials who have access to the discussion papers, these papers are merely discussion papers. They have not been presented to leaders of the Micronesian entities as "proposals", and they can be called proposals only in the sense that they have been proposed by the Trust Territory Government staff for review by Federal officials.

I regret that my office was not able to address the question of the political education program's format earlier in the summer, but that point seems not to be germane to your memo.

Your assertion that proposals have been made to the Micronesian leadership before being discussed with concerned Federal officials is not accurate. First, proposals have not been made. Second, agency comments have been solicited. Copies of all of the correspondence from the High Commissioner's office on this subject were provided to Jim Berg of your office and Mr. Guthrie of EA/PIA at State on August 21, 1980, a week before your meeting with Mr. Stovall. On August 26, copies were sent to Mr. Lee of IO/UNP at State; on Wednesday, August 27, I met with Ambassador McCall and discussed political education at length, and on September 2, I sent Ambassador McCall copies of the discussion papers that had been given to your office two weeks earlier. Of course, an information copy of the most important communication on the subject, the High Commissioner's cable dated August 7, 1980, was received in your office August 11, 1980.

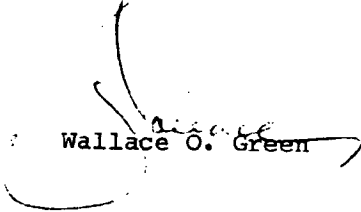
How Mr. Stovall received similar papers we do not know; it is certain, however, that his papers cannot be construed as official proposals.

I understand fully the frustrations that result when, as a result of summer vacation schedules, it sometimes appears that we cannot be as well informed as we would always wish, and I appreciate the immediate

and thorough attention you gave to the High Commissioner's discussion papers last week. Within three hours of your signing your memorandum of August 29, we read the memo to High Commissioner Winkel over the phone. As we have informed you, the High Commissioner decided to postpone an initial consultation he had planned with Micronesian leaders until he had your memo in hand. He requested that a copy of your memo be sent to him through confidential communications, to lessen the possibility that someone might reach the erroneous conclusion that a specific course of action had already been determined. He and I are equally interested in learning the views of Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Lee, or Ambassadors Ridgway and McCall and are willing to provide them ample time for the preparation of their comments.

In short, I am fully aware of the interest of OMSN and other agencies in the political education program. I appreciate the extremely helpful guidance you gave us August 29 on this subject, and I welcome any additional comments you have. We will continue to coordinate U.S. Government instructions to the High Commissioner from my office and we will continue to bring your office and the State Department into the process. I am distributing copies of this memo to all concerned offices as a step in that direction.

On other matters you have raised, I will be writing to you soon in response to your August 15, 1980, memorandum.


Wallace O. Green