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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 8, 1986

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NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION  
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 246

THE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA (U)

The United States has administered the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), generally referred to as Micronesia, since 1947 under a strategic Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations Security Council. The United States has broad and continuing interests in Micronesia which derive primarily from our strategic defense requirements and treaty commitments; from international considerations, including our philosophical commitment to the right of self-determination and our equivalent Trusteeship Agreement obligations; and from Congressionally enacted statements of our interests and requirements. (U)

After the 1982 completion of future political status negotiations, the United States reached agreement with the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau on new post-Trusteeship political relationships set forth in Compacts of Free Association. Each of these freely associated states would be self-governing, the U.S. would recognize their sovereignty, U.S. economic assistance over a fifteen year period would be provided, and the U.S. would retain plenary defense and security rights, including the right to foreclose the area to others to establish military use areas. (U)

The Compact was approved by each of the future freely associated states in United Nations observed plebiscites subsequently adjudged to be valid acts of self-determination by the UN. Congress enacted the Compact for the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (PL 99-239, January 14, 1986) and is completing action on the Palau Compact. The fourth political jurisdiction of the TTPI, the Northern Mariana Islands, will become a United States territory upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement pursuant to PL 94-241. The Northern Mariana Islands engaged in its act of self-determination on July 17, 1975. (U)

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The Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia are prepared to implement the Compact of Free Association. Implementation of the Compact and termination of the Trusteeship Agreement for those states, and full territorial implementation and Trusteeship termination of the Northern Mariana Islands, will meet all American interests initially set out in NSDD-10 (September 21, 1981). Resolution of outstanding constitutional issues with Palau in accordance with the Compact of Free Association will allow implementation of that Compact and effective termination of the Trusteeship at a later date. (S)

Accordingly, the Administration, acting on the basis of authority in PL 94-241 and PL 99-239, will take the following immediate steps:

- Seek and secure agreements from the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, pursuant to Section 411 of the Compact, for the entry into force of the Compact for those states on October 21, 1986;
- Develop mutually agreed arrangements with Palau for early implementation of its Compact in a manner that does not impede any U.S. rights set out in the Compact;
- Commence on October 21, 1986 in seeking the necessary votes to secure a procedural resolution in the UN Security Council whereby the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and the Northern Mariana Islands are removed from the purview of the Trusteeship Agreement by virtue of being deleted from the UNSC agenda item on TTPI.
- In ten working days, i.e., on November 3, 1986, even in the absence of assurance of the votes necessary to secure adoption of the procedural resolution described above, issue an announcement that the United States has fulfilled its obligations under the UN Trusteeship Agreement with respect to the three entities in question and that those entities are no longer subject to the Trusteeship.
- Establish the mechanisms in the Executive Branch necessary to manage the new relationships consistent with executive orders and for the preparation of the Presidential proclamation in accordance with Section 10002 of the covenant of the Northern Mariana Islands. (S)

This Directive supersedes any conflicting provisions of NSDD-10 and subsequent National Security Decision Directives on the subject of this Directive, but otherwise reaffirms the contents of those Directives. (U)

*Ronald Reagan*