

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Old Executive Building
Room 361
Washington, D. C. 20506

The Honorable Vicente N. Santos
Chairman
Marianas Political Status Commission
P.O. Box 218
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your letter of 28 August was here when I arrived from San Francisco. I was pleased to learn that the Marianas Political Status Commission has scheduled its first organizing meeting for September 7. I am sorry that my reply could not have reached you in time for this meeting. However, I can assure you that my government continues to look forward to responding promptly to the request of the Marianas for negotiations leading to a termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and toward a fruitful and permanent union between the Marianas and the United States.

You have indicated that you hope this process can begin this year and hopefully before the November elections. As you know the next round of status talks with the Joint Future Status Committee of the COM is now scheduled for September 28-October 13. The following week I am committed and must be in Boston through the 23rd.

This leaves very little time before the November elections and I would imagine that at least some members of the Marianas Political Status Commission may wish to be free to participate in the last stages of the election campaign.

With these considerations in mind I would suggest that we attempt to schedule the first full round of discussions as soon after the election as you feel appropriate. In the meantime I would be happy to have an informal preliminary meeting with the Chairman of the Marianas Delegation and other members of the Commission who might be named to attend an informal organizing session. I could meet with such a group anytime during the last week in October.

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I would like to propose for your consideration, that the meeting be held in San Francisco. If this is not convenient I would be pleased to fly to Hawaii. The purpose of this preliminary meeting would be to exchange thoughts on the negotiations and to draw up plans for the formal exchanges which would follow including the dates, the site and the agenda for the first round of talks between the U.S. and the Marianas Political Status Commission.

I look forward to hearing your views on the above suggestions.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Franklin Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
For Micronesian Status Negotiations