

MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION  
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*Distributed to  
JAG 11/28/72*

PRESS RELEASE

SAIPAN, M.I. The Marianas Political Status Commission held its second meeting on November 18, 1972, in continuation of its activities pursuant to District Law 3-124. The commission was created by the Mariana Islands District Legislature during its historic first Special Session held last May of this year, which was called for the purpose of entertaining discussion for the establishment of a Status Commission for the Marianas which will lead to a close political relationship between people of the Marianas District and the United States of America. Section 1 of the District Law states the intention of the Act by providing that "The Mariana Islands District Legislature finds that the people of the Marianas Islands District desire a close political relationship with the United States of America, a future political status different from that which has been tentatively chosen by the people of the remainder of the district of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as expressed by their representatives in the Congress of Micronesia. The Mariana Islands District Legislature further notes that the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and of the Trusteeship Agreement, call for self-determination and self-government for all people of the Trust Territory. Since the Congress of Micronesia has reached a tentative solution to the question of political status not in accordance with the wishes of a majority of the people of the Marianas, the Mariana Islands District Legislature views it as imperative that the people

of the Marianas take appropriate and necessary steps toward their own resolution of this important question. To this extent, the Mariana Islands District Legislature hereby creates the Marianas Political Status Commission, and sets forth its powers and duties."

The members of the Commission are: Vicente N. Santos and Felipe A. Salas (Marianas District Legislature); Edward DLG. Pangelinan and Herman Q. Guerrero (Congress of Micronesia); Benjamin T. Manglona and Joannes R. Taimanao (Rota Municipal Council); Herman M. Manglona and Francisco A. Hocog (Tinian Municipal Council); Vicente T. Camacho and Daniel T. Muna (Saipan Legislature); Olympio T. Borja (Northern Marianas); Joaquin I. Pangelinan (Popular Party); Francisco T. Palacios (Territorial Party); Felix Rabauliman (United Carolinians Association); and Jose C. Tenorio (Business Association).

The Status Commission had held an organizational meeting during the first week of September of this year. During that meeting Senator Edward DLG. Pangelinan of the Congress of Micronesia and President Vicente N. Santos of the Mariana Islands District Legislature were selected chairman and vice-chairman respectively. The activities and functions of the commission are delegated to three standing committees which will undertake much of the preliminary studies and investigation of the commission on matters pertaining to and relating to the future political status of the Marianas. The standing committees of the commission are the Committee on Military and Land Matters, chaired by Mr. Daniel T. Muna, the committee on Political and Governmental Matters, chaired by Mr. Herman Q. Guerrero, and the committee on Economic, Financial, and Social Matters, chaired by Mr. Jose C. Tenorio. A committee on

Rules, chaired by Mr. Joaquin I. Pangelinan, is also created for the purpose of establishing rules of procedure for the commission.

During the second meeting held last weekend, matters of importance relative to the forthcoming formal negotiation on the future political relationship between the people of the Marianas and the United States were discussed. The Commission has instructed Chairman Pangelinan to travel to the Mainland on late November to meet with the President's Personal Representative, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, to firm up preliminary plans for the historic formal meeting between the Marianas Political Status Commission and the United States Delegation, to be held sometime in December in Saipan.

While in the United States, Chairman Pangelinan will also spent his time interviewing prospective consultants who will assist the commission in its work leading toward formal discussions and negotiations with the United States Delegation.