



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER

MESSAGE CENTER

UNCLASSIFIED

58406

CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION  
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS  
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA OSN  
USUN FOR STOWE  
TTP NO. 249

**(MARIANAS STATUS)**

SAIPAN DECEMBER 8 (MNS)---THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAS HIRED A PART-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND A WASHINGTON LEGAL CONSULTANT FIRM. AND A LARGE PUBLIC CEREMONY HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR NEXT WEEK TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE MARIANAS COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

THESE WERE THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS TO COME OUT OF THE MARIANAS COMMISSION'S THIRD MEETING ON THURSDAY (DEC 7). ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE AT THE LENGTHY SESSION, ATTORNEY JAMES WHITE HAS BEEN HIRED BY THE COMMISSION TO WORK PART TIME AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. WHITE IS A FORMER PALAU DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND HAS MOST RECENTLY BEEN WORKING FOR TRANSPACIFIC LINES, INC. (TRANSPAC) AS LEGAL CONSULTANT.

SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS COMMISSION, ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS ENGAGED THE LAW FIRM OF WILMER, CUTLER AND PICKERING ASSOCIATES AS LEGAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. PANGELINAN TRAVELED TO THE U.S. LAST WEEK TO TALK WITH POTENTIAL CONSULTING FIRMS, AND FOUND FIVE. FOUR OF THEM WERE TOO EXPENSIVE FOR THE LIMITED BUDGET OF THE MARIANAS COMMISSION, AND THE FIFTH WAS CHOSEN WHEN IT AGREED TO LOWER ITS MINIMUM CHARGES TO THE COMMISSION.

DISCUSSION OF FINANCES DURING THE MEETING PRODUCED THE SUGGESTION THAT SOME ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMISSION MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. HOWEVER, REPRESENTATIVE HERMAN Q. GUERRERO AND SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA, MEMBERS OF BOTH THE COMMISSION AND OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, INDICATED THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD MEET LITTLE SUCCESS.

ON THE SUBJECT OF LEGAL CONSULTANTS FOR THE COMMISSION, DR. FRANCISCO PALACIOS SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMISSION LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF HIRING PEOPLE FROM COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES OR FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. PALACIOS INDICATED CONCERN THAT CONSULTANTS FROM THE U.S. MIGHT MISLEAD THEM AND THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS BECAUSE THE COMMISSION WAS ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT BE BETTER ABLE TO OBJECTIVELY ADVISE THE COMMISSION.

CONGRESSMAN GUERRERO REPLIED THAT IT MIGHT BE CHEAPER TO

PAGE 2

UNCLASSIFIED

00111111

03-412874

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER

MESSAGE CENTER

UNCLASSIFIED

58406

HIRE PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE U.S., BUT THAT THE FACT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE WITH THE U.S. WORKS IN FAVOR OF HIRING U.S. CONSULTANTS, SINCE THEY WOULD HAVE A BETTER BACKGROUND IN U.S. GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. SENATOR PANGELINAN ASSURED THE COMMISSION THAT WILMER, CUTLER AND PICKERING ASSOCIATES WAS A PRESTIGIOUS LAW FIRM AND THAT ITS FIRST DUTY IS TO PROTECT ITS CLIENTS, THE MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION.

SEVERAL LEADING U.S. ECONOMIC CONSULTING FIRMS WERE DISCUSSED AS POSSIBLE CONSULTANTS TO THE COMMISSION. THEY INCLUDED ROBERT R. NATHAN ASSOCIATES, INC., AND JAMES R. LEONARD ASSOCIATES, INC. LEONARD IS A FORMER SENIOR MEMBER OF THE NATHAN FIRM AND HE HAS BEEN IN THE TRUST TERRITORY A NUMBER OF TIMES WHILE WRITING AND REPORTING FOR THE NATHAN FIRM.

JOSEPH SCREEN, GENERAL MANAGER OF JOETENSEN ENTERPRISES AND FORMER T.T. GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION, SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL WHEREBY HE COULD WORK FOR THE COMMISSION ON A PART TIME BASIS. SCREEN IS A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND HAS WORKED IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE FOR MANY YEARS.

FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSIONS, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AGREED THAT THE CHAIRMAN AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO HIRE CONSULTANTS AND INFORM THE COMMISSION OF THEIR DECISIONS.

AS FOR THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS NEXT WEEK, CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN SAID THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS AS THE "OFFICIAL NEGOTIATOR" ON THE DELEGATION. WILLIAMS IS PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MICRONESIAN STATUS TALKS. WITH WILLIAMS IS HIS NEW DEPUTY, JAMES WILSON, AND STANLEY S. CARPENTER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY INTERIOR FOR TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS. FOUR OTHER PEOPLE WILL COMPLETE

P  
GE SIX RUMG8AA3821 UNCLAS  
THE U.S. DELEGATION.

MOUNT CARMEL AUDITORIUM ON SAIPAN HAS BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE OPENING, PUBLIC CEREMONIES FOR THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS. THE CEREMONIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, AND WILL INCLUDE SPEECHES BY BOTH DELEGATION CHAIRMEN AND BY THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN, VICENTE D. SABLAN. A REQUEST FROM THE COMMISSION TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAS ASKED THAT SCHOOL CLASSES ON SAIPAN BE SUSPENDED SO THAT STUDENTS CAN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THIS HISTORIC FIRST MEETING OF THE TWO

PAGE 3

UNCLASSIFIED

00111111

03-413475