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DRAFT FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Marianas Political Status Commission and the President's Personal Representative met in Saipan December 13-14, 1972 for the formal opening of negotiations leading to a permanent union between the Mariana Islands and the United States of America.

The meetings, which consisted of a colorful inaugural ceremony, plenary sessions opening and closing the talks, and informal working talks afforded opportunity for warm exchanges between the two groups in anticipation of future relationship which will all concerned.

Both sides reviewed the history of the repeated expressions of the desires of the people of the Marianas for a close and permanent association with the United States, culminating in the formal request by the Marianas last April to begin talks leading to such a status and the response of the United States indicating its willingness to accede to the Marianas wish.

There were no detailed negotiations or exchanges of formal proposals during the course of the meetings, but both sides had ample time for a friendly and frank exploration of the questions and issues to be resolved in the course of the substantive negotiations which will follow. The exchanges that took place did allow both sides to form a more the views of the other.

Plans and procedures for negotiating session were worked out. The next meeting, which will be strictly a working session, will be held in 1973. It was agreed that advance preliminary

work will permit the actual negotiations to move swiftly to agreement on the basic principles of the relationship, leaving to other technical groups or sub-committees the working out of actual language which will serve as the basis of a final agreement.

The U. S. Delegation wishes to record its heartfelt thanks for the extraordinarily warm and gracious hospitality the people of the Marianas have accorded them, a spirit which augurs well for harmonious relations in the future.

Both sides express warm thanks to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and the District Administrator of the Marianas and their staffs, for the support and facilities which have contributed so much to the success of the talks.

The full membership of the two delegations consisted of:

Marianas Political Status Commission

Senator Edward DLG Pangelinan, Chairman

Mr. Vicente N. Santos, Vice Chairman

Senator Olympia T. Borja

Mr. Vicente T. Comacho

Representative Herman Q. Guerrero

Mr. Francisco A. Hocog

Mr. Benjamin T. Manglona

Mr. Herman M. Manglona

Mr. Daniel T. Muna

Mr. Francisco T. Palacios

Mr. Joaquin I. Pangelinan

Mr. Felix Rabauliman

Mr. Felipe A. Salas

Mr. Joannes R. Taimanao

Mr. Hose C. Tenorio

Edward DLG Pangelinan

Vicente N. Santos

U. S. Delegation

Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams,
Chairman

Mr. James M. Wilson, Jr.

Mr. Stanley S. Carpenter

Captain William J. Crowe, Jr.

U. S. Advisers

Mr. Herman Marcuse

Captain Gordon J. Schuller

Mr. Adrian deGraffenried

Miss Mary Vance Trent

Franklin Haydn Williams