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WORKING SESSION OF THE MARIANAS STATUS TALKS HELD AT THE ROYAL TAGA HOTEL, SAIPAN, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, ON 14 DECEMBER 1972.

The meeting was called to order at 2 o'clock PM.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Good afternoon Ambassador Williams and members of the American Delegation. The members of the Marianas Status Commission join me in extending our appreciation for the opportunity to meet this afternoon at a working session in order to further explore some of our thoughts and thinking on this very important subject - the direction of the future status of the Mariana Islands District. Our Commission has not prepared any formal statement to present to you this afternoon because of the nature of the meeting. We have before us, an agenda which I thought perhaps it would be in order to go over this agenda and discuss the various items in the agenda. With your permission Mr. Ambassador, I would like to begin with the first item, the procedural items and organization that we hope to agree upon for our future meetings and sessions of the Marianas Status Talks. Our Commission is responsive to the idea that our major work may well be handled by the various sub-committees in which they will be reporting to our Commission for its final consideration and decision. We have agreed that stenographic records of these proceedings and agreed would not be released until the Chairmen of both Delegations have decided upon the subject. We will be providing you with tape recordings of all proceedings here, at your request, one copy to your Delegation. And, we will try to have a stenographic recorder at future meetings so that we will be in the position to record the minutes for our future meetings. I would like definitely to hear your thoughts on this particular, unless there is something I have not covered in this particular subject.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Thank you Senator Pangelinan. Let me begin on a matter that's not on the agenda. Those on this side of the table want to thank you for the wonderful evening last night, and your warm hospitality. We agree, certainly, to the agenda items that you have presented, and I would now like to ask Mr. Wilson, as the Deputy U. S. Representative for these talks as well as other talks with the Joint Future Status Committee, to say a few words about procedural organization as we see it. I believe you will be commenting on some of the points.

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MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, as Ambassador Williams has indicated, we have a number of points to suggest under these procedures. It is our view that in many respects agreement on these procedural matters may be one of the most concrete results of this working session. It has been our experience, as I'm sure it has been yours as well, that we do need to arrive at some common guidelines and understandings which will govern the future course of our work, since these will not only expedite the process of talking to each other at this table, but they will also insure that we fully understand each other's operating rules and thereby avoid future difficulty, future confusion and misunderstanding on substantive matters which we will be discussing at greater length in our discussions to come.

We believe at the outset, as indicated in Ambassador Williams' opening remarks yesterday, that both delegations should clearly set forth their role and authority in these negotiations. For our part, the authority of the United States Delegation derives from the President of the United States and Ambassador Williams, as I am sure you appreciate, speaks with the full authority of the Executive Branch of the United States Government. We will, as the discussions proceed, agree to individual points on an ad referendum basis, but we can assure you that once the United States Delegation does agree it will wholeheartedly, and unanimously, support these agreements within the United States Government. A very important point.

I should note at the same time that we do not, of course, speak for the United States Congress. Our Congress will have to approve any final action which is taken by these Delegations, but the delegation will, to the maximum extent possible, explore in advance the views of our Congress and we can assure you that this Delegation, once it endorses an agreement reached here, will act as an advocate for that agreement before the United States Congress. And, you can rest assured that our delegation speaks with one voice here and will speak with one voice when defending our efforts before our Congress.

In turn, we will be very interested in knowing how you view the role and authority of your delegation. We cannot over-emphasize, really, how important it is that your delegation likewise commit itself to support the agreements which will be reached between us.

In a similar vein, perhaps a word should be said about how we see the course of these negotiations. As we try to achieve agreement around this table, the U. S. Delegation will be reporting continuously to the President and to the Executive Branch of the United States Government and will be acting as an agent for them in achieving any final agreement. Thereafter, of course, the agreement which we have reached here must go to the United States Congress for implementation. On your side, we expect, of course, that the agreement would be submitted to the Marianas District Legislature and that thereafter the agreement will be submitted to the people of the Marianas in a plebiscite.

Mr. Chairman, this is only an outline of the rather complex scenario that we envisage with these discussions, and the details will certainly have to be worked out as we proceed. At the same time, however, we would like to get, if possible at this time, your thinking here as to how we should go about

this to achieve a meeting of the minds on a general approach before we go much further.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Thank you Mr. Wilson. I certainly appreciate the remarks that you have given us regarding the procedural matters. At this time I would like to perhaps call a short recess to consult with the members of my Commission.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: That's fine with us. This is just the first item, of course, in our list of subjects that we think we would like you to take up in relation to procedures of the commission. We could certainly have a recess at this time, or would you prefer that we go through the list before we go to a recess?

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: I just wanted to consult with a few of the members.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: We will save time if we go through some of the items.

MR. WILSON: With your concurrence, Mr. Chairman, I will continue on to more procedural points in this session. I believe we will come back to several of the points that you have raised in your remarks.

First of all, with regard to <sup>the</sup> / <sup>the</sup> place of meetings. It is our view that, after consultation with you Mr. Chairman, we will be prepared to hold all of our meetings if necessary here in the Marianas, if this is your wish. In that

event, we would suggest that the two delegations alternate as host with their respective heads acting as chairman during their host sessions. Our initial session has already set this recommendation in motion, of course.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, our plenary session was open to the public and we would recommend that we continue this practice. Similarly, it does seem advisable, just as we are doing now, to limit working sessions to delegation members and advisers. As to the records, we would agree with you that we should continue the process set up for this session of releasing the verbatim transcripts of plenary sessions to the public while holding any records of working sessions only for the use of the two delegations, except of course, as may be otherwise agreed between the two chairmen.

Thirdly, we would suggest that we agree now to issue a final joint communique at the close of each session that will summarize the achievements of the meeting, and will be available for immediate release to the press.

Fourthly, we have noted the committee organization of your Status Commission and are interested to learn whether you believe it would be helpful if our delegation were to form similar committees for the purpose of assisting in these negotiations-- speaking here of course of our future sessions. We understand that your committees have been formed on your side to expedite your efforts to do research and to formulate your positions. But, it seems to us, that there is also some merit in having these committees work on joint problems hand-in-hand with their counterparts from this delegation. Certain issues on this basis could be delegated to these sub-committees rather than dealing with them in full sessions of the two delegations, and we are prepared to do this, Mr. Chairman, if you believe this would be profitable.

Point number five, we have one further suggestion regarding sub-committees. And that is, that there are really two important facets of the overall negotiating picture which are both complex and also require considerable implementing action outside the negotiating room. These are, in the first place, transitional actions, of which we are all acutely aware, and the public information effort that will precede any plebiscite. It seems to us that these two subjects particularly lend themselves to a joint approach. Our recommendation is that we form two joint sub-committees now, to deal with

these issues. We would envision that the two joint sub-committees would develop proposals for the consideration of the two delegations, and once a proposal is approved then the appropriate sub-committee would be responsible for implementing it. These two sub-committees would have to be prepared to meet between negotiating sessions and to carry on their work in a truly joint atmosphere, but we do believe that the effort would pay substantial dividends in easing both the acceptance and the implementation of the final agreement worked out by the two delegations.

Mr. Chairman, this is the last of our specific procedural and organizational suggestions. We are extremely interested, of course, in receiving your views on these proposals. I'm sure that you will perhaps, after you've had a chance to consider them, have some recommendations of your own which we will of course be only too happy to consider. Hopefully, however, we can reach agreement this afternoon on the bulk of these procedural details and can in the future devote all our time to the very important matters of substance which confront us.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Thank you Mr. Wilson. Mr. Ambassador, with your permission I would like to have the opportunity to have a little time to meet with my commission to review the position brought out by Mr. Wilson. We will be communicating to you our responses to the suggestions that you have presented, hopefully, not later than before you leave this island.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Would you like to take a recess now, Eddy? We will be glad to leave the room, and we will be standing by so that you can discuss these five points right now.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: We do have other matters to present to you, and I thought perhaps while you give us an opportunity to review your suggestions on procedural matters, I would like to request that we present some of these questions to your delegation, and perhaps when we meet again later this afternoon you would have a thought on our questions regarding the second items on the agenda.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: If that is your wish Mr. Chairman, please proceed.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: We certainly appreciate Mr. Ambassador, the remarks that you presented to us yesterday, and we again welcome this afternoon's

session to review some of the problem areas and further need for clarification on your remarks, and we hope also that you will have some questions on our statement yesterday. I have prepared several questions which we would like to put to your delegation. I must apologize for not having copies before you so that you can follow it in order, but, with your permission, I would like to read this to your delegation. And, of course, I will be making copies of it for your benefit.

First, I would like to refer to our opening statement, the questions we have raised there, to please review them and give us the benefit of your thoughts on some of the highlights that we have presented for your consideration.

Now, I would like to address a number of specific questions relative to your remarks yesterday. First we, our delegation, would like to know whether your United States Delegation, or any member, has made contact with members of the United States Congress or staff regarding these separate Status Talks? If so, what were their reactions to such talks? What specific problems, if any, does the United States Delegation anticipate in Congress with respect to a separate status for the Marianas?

Second question, sir, will the United States Delegation join our Commission in requesting the High Commissioner to not lease any public lands without first consulting our delegation?

Three, does the U. S. Delegation have available any comprehensive list of Federal programs and services which could be made available to the Marianas Delegation?

Four, if the Commission decided on a non-citizen association with the people of the Marianas, would this affect any of the above programs, and also what differences would this create in the "full package of rights" of U. S. citizens?

Five, would we have to take certain Federal programs if the people do not want them?

Six, are the materials in the possession of the United States Delegation relevant to Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Hawaii and Alaska available to our delegation?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly some, but not all, of your questions are procedural in nature, and so I would suggest now that we do return to the first agenda item, and that we do go into recess and return to the hearing later, so that you can consider the questions that we posed, and we will return at your call.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Thank you very much. I will certainly notify you as soon as we are ready.

The meeting recessed at 2:42 o'clock PM.

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 o'clock PM.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Ambassador Williams, may I call this meeting back to order? We are now in a position to respond to some of your thoughts and positions regarding procedural matters, and, with your permission, I would like to address myself to the order in which the matters were presented to us.

With respect to your request for information regarding the rule and authority of the Marianas Commission, I am sure that you are aware that this commission was created by the Marianas District Legislature. In this important respect, our delegation is different from yours. This Commission is composed of fifteen members of different backgrounds and opinions. We are going to try our best to compromise our differences and reach a unanimous agreement. We hope that this will be possible. The Commission has unanimously adopted the following motion on this very important subject; "Resolved; when the final project of this Commission is approved by the Commission, those so approving shall support the entire product through the District Legislature and to the people at a later date."

I now turn to the other procedural problems. You have requested our response regarding the place of meetings. We are happy for your thought to hold all the meetings in the Marianas. We have budgetary constraints on our part, but when our budget permits us, we may suggest that we might have one meeting on Guam - which is also a part of the Marianas. But, we have no objection whatsoever and we're honored for the suggestion that we have the meetings in Saipan.

On your second request regarding the open sessions, we agree on the recommendation that they should be open to the public, and ... the entire session, and that the working sessions will be limited to members of the delegations and advisers.

Would this include background material regarding any negotiations leading up to the final decision fixing the potential status of these areas?

Will the U. S. Delegation make available to the Commission, any studies regarding the available resources and needs of the Marianas. Can a list of these studies be prepared?

With respect to the U. S. land needs in the Marianas, how can the Commission satisfy itself that only the Federal Government's "minimal needs" for land will be involved?

Can we have the benefits of any legal analysis conducted by the United States Delegation regarding the land alienation issue?

Your speech yesterday mentioned a series of studies. Does this mean a study of each island or does each in this series you referred to represent a function, and not an island? When will these studies be available? As to the ones, completed now, could they be given to our Commission for its use?

What is meant by the words in your speech, quote public trust land? Does it cover both public land and military retention land?

Is the United States willing, upon the establishment of our new association, to have all public and military retention land turned over to this new government body and then negotiate with this new government body for the land needs of the military and other Federal agencies, or are these land needs required to be a part of the agreement for the new government association itself?

Assuming long leases for land instead of total alienation of land, will the military also use long-lease for its uses?

Can the principles of escheat generally applicable to states apply to the Marianas entity even though it is not a state?

Can a formula be worked out where funds can be made available taking into consideration needs for economic development, so that yearly budgetary needs do not need to be justified through the U. S. Bureau of the Budget and the United States Congress?

These are the major questions, Mr. Ambassador, that we would like to request your thoughts on, and we hope, sometime today, or in the future, you will give us your thoughts on these areas. Again, I apologize for not giving you in advance a copy of these questions, but we will be making copies available to you at a later time.

As to the records, it is our decision that the two chairmen will release the verbatim transcript, when they together agree that such records should be released.

We agree that a final joint communique will be issued by both delegations upon completion of each formal session. And, for this particular session, we have selected Mr. Borja and Mr. Guerrero, and Mr. White to meet with your Committee in regard to the joint communique.

As to the sub-committees, or the standard committees, it is our desire to have you set up three committees to correspond with ours. Meetings between our respective committees in each area should be held prior to the next formal session for work in each given area, then the committees can report back to the full delegation or Commission for preparation for the next formal talks. We would like to suggest that perhaps sometime in April would be an appropriate time for the separate committees to meet--in order--so that the Chairman might attend each of the committees, then return again one month thereafter for the next formal talks.

With respect to your proposal for two joint sub-committees on transitional action and public information, we believe that is a very useful suggestion because of the need to concentrate during the next few months on the matters resulting from these negotiations. We request that the creation of these two joint committees be placed on the agenda for our next session. It would be helpful for our future consideration of this proposal if the United States Delegation could provide us, in advance of our next session, with information regarding the specific responsibilities of these proposed sub-committees. I believe we have touched upon most, but not all, the suggestions that you have raised in Mr. Wilson's remarks on the procedural matters. Do you have any questions or remarks, Mr. Ambassador?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do appreciate the nature of the composition of the Marianas Status Commission in that it represents the District Legislature, your Congressional Delegation, the principal municipalities, and political parties. Also, as I understand it, once we have reached agreement we can assume that at least the majority on your side of the table support the agreement, and will support it before your District Legislature at any subsequent time necessary prior to the plebiscite. We raise this question because it is very important. If we hadn't raised it we would never

have known that we had an agreement, and we do appreciate the time and attention you have given this, what we consider, procedural question, and yet one of great substance. With respect to future meetings, I think that this was to be taken up as the third item on our agenda this afternoon so I'll reserve any comments that I have until we get to that item.

While you've been discussing the questions we've raised, we in turn have been going over the questions that you asked us. We can give you some responses now - others will have to be answered at a later date. Some of your questions are very complicated, some are of a highly legalistic nature and we will have to address them when we have more time. Others will be developed, since they are an <sup>integral</sup> part of the actual negotiations themselves. So, in due course, many of them will be taken up and considered in great depth. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if it would be possible for you to cooperate with me and read your questions one at a time, and then I will try to answer them following each question?

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Yes, indeed, Mr. Ambassador. I'm sorry that the opportunity was not afforded us to present to you a written copy of the questions, but I will be most happy to read them to you, and I hope that if I don't read it very clearly, you will please bear with me as we go along. The first concerns that we expressed earlier were the questions that we had raised in our opening remarks yesterday afternoon. We hope to get the benefit of your thoughts on those questions at a later time. Now, may I begin the first question that I presented to you?

One - Has the United States Delegation, or any member, made contact with members of the United States Congress, or staff, regarding these separate status talks?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: The answer to your first question is "Yes." I have consulted with the key members of the appropriate committees of the House and the Senate. They have been consulted, they are aware of these talks. I might add, Mr. Chairman, that at the present time our Congress is going through some reorganization. Some members of the Congress whom I have consulted will not be members of the new Congress. The Committee Chairmen have not been named, nor have the sub-committee chairmen been named. Therefore, it has been impossible for me to consult with them, since I do not know who they are.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: A sub-question to that question is: If so, what were their reactions to such talks?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, they are aware of what we are attempting to do here during this first meeting between our delegations.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: The other procedural question to that is: What special problems, if any, do members of the United States Delegation anticipate in Congress with respect to the separate status of the Marianas?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer this question until I've had further consultation with the new chairmen of the committees in the Congress that will be consulted.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Another question is: Will The United States Delegation join our mission in requesting the High Commissioner to not lease any public lands without first consulting our Commission?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, we will have to take this question under advisement. We will certainly consult with you further on this matter.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Next question is: Does the United States Delegation have available any comprehensive lists of Federal programs and services which could be made available to the Marianas?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, we will provide to your Delegation a list of those programs now applicable to the Marianas and, if you wish, to the counsel in Washington. We will be very happy to cooperate with him in answering any questions that you might have. As to the Federal programs that might be made available to the Marianas under a new future status, they will of course depend upon the outcome of these negotiations themselves.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: If the Commission decided on a non-citizen association of the people, will this affect any of the above programs, and also what differences would this create in the "full package of rights" for U.S. citizens?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: This question, of course, is a highly legalistic one, and we will have to take it under advisement.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Would the people of the Marianas have to take certain Federal programs if they do not desire them.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: This is a question which we will have to have some elaboration on. All I can say at this time is that we will take it under advisement.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Are there materials in the possession of the U.S. Delegation relevant to Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Hawaii and Alaska available to our Commission.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the records that you are referring to are a matter of public record and they are available to anyone.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS (Cont'd): A specific answer to your question is - Yes, <sup>the</sup> we will cooperate with you in making available/kinds of background information and records you have referred to.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: The other question is very much related to that, and in some way you have responded to that. For your benefit let me just state it once again - Would this include background material regarding the negotiations leading up to the final decision fixing the potential status of these areas?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, again I'm not sure of what you mean by that. The negotiations with respect to the other territories of course are a matter of long history, going back over 70 years. Most of this material is available and public record.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Next question, Mr. Ambassador - Will the U. S. Delegation make available to the commission any studies regarding the economic resources and needs of the Marianas, and can a list of these studies be prepared?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Again, I think we're going to have to have a little clearer statement of what precisely you are looking for. All I can say is that we want to cooperate, we want to make available to you any information that is necessary for you to make an intelligent judgement.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: With respect to the United States land needs in the Marianas - How can the commission satisfy itself that only the Federal Government's quote "minimal needs" end-quote are involved?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: This question, <sup>like</sup> some of your later questions, is involved, of course, with these negotiations themselves, and so we will be answering these kinds of questions when we get into the land negotiations as part of the overall negotiations.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Thank you. The next question is - Can we have the benefit of any legal analysis conducted by the U. S. Delegation regarding the land alienation issue?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: We recognize the importance of this subject and your question. As I have mentioned, we are in the process of studying this matter from our point of view. We will <sup>be</sup> certainly consulting with you and sharing

with you our findings in the process of these talks.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: In your speech you mentioned a series of studies - Does this mean a study of each island, or does this series refer to functions applied to the whole district:

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: The studies that I mentioned refer to the Mariana Islands District as a whole.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: When will these studies be available? As to those that have been completed now, will those be given to the Commission for its use?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, if you're referring to the Department of Defense studies with respect to its requirements, these are, of course, internal studies and as they are not available to the public, they would not be available to the Commission.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: What is meant by the words in your speech, quote "public trust land" unquote? Does it cover both public land and military retention land?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: We do draw a distinction between public trust land and military retention land, and we will be addressing both as part of these talks.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Is the United States willing, upon establishment of our new association, to have all public and military retained lands turned over to this new government body, and then negotiate with this new governmental body for the land needs of the military and other Federal agencies; or are these land needs required to be a part of the agreement for the new governmental association itself?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: We approach these negotiations in accord with the second half of your statement. We consider them a part of these negotiations, and we will be negotiating with you with respect to our land requirements.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: What is meant by the words in your speech, quote "public trust land"... I'm sorry, I've already covered that. Assuming long-lease ideology instead of total alienation of land, will the military also use long-lease for its uses? Do you want me to repeat the question?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: No, I understand the question. Again, this question will be taken up during our further talks when we get to the land question.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Thank you. Can the principle of escheat generally applicable to the states, apply to the Marianas as to an entity, even though it is not a state?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Again, we will have to take this question under advisement, but we say at this point that is part of the larger land question.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Last question Mr. Ambassador - Can a formula be worked out where funds could be made available, taking into considerations the needs of resources so that yearly local budgetary needs do not need to be justified to the U. S. Bureau of the Budget and the United States Congress?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Again, this whole area of funds and commitments will be discussed very very thoroughly at our next formal session. We are certainly, as I said yesterday, mindful of your interest in the subject and our desire to be of assistance in further development of the Marianas. I think that as a general answer to your question, I would have to say that all Federal funds must be authorized and appropriated by the Congress of the United States.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Thank you Mr. Ambassador. That concluded the series of questions we would like to have you consider. We appreciate very much, your response and suggestions that you will be responding to us at a later time. At this time I would like to look toward your delegation, and turn it over to you and your delegation.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: As I have said, I have found your questions to be very helpful - we found your statement today to be very helpful. We came here to listen to you, we want to take back with us a clearer idea of what are some of the issues, some of the questions that you want us to address to your satisfaction. You helped us with this, indeed. If there are any further questions that you have, if you want to elaborate on any of the key issues and problems that you see we are going to have, or concerned with, we will have several weeks, or months, and we would certainly appreciate hearing further from you.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: I will be meeting with my delegation as to what series of questions should be placed to you later.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: I would like to say, our <sup>dialogue</sup> shouldn't come to an end just because this working session comes to an end. We have, of course, a Liaison Officer right here in Saipan, Miss Mary Vance Trent. So, you can certainly contact her if you have additional questions. And your point of contact in Washington through correspondence for further requests should be directed to Mr. Wilson. I would like to make it clear that Miss Trent is <sup>the</sup> a part of this team. She is my representative here in Marianas as well as in other parts of Micronesia, so she does have a position that is intimately related to this problem that we have.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Mr. Ambassador, I just want to mention to you that Miss Trent has been in close <sup>touch</sup> with our delegation, and she has been very helpful with many of our problems that needed final consultation. She has been working very hard here and we appreciate this very much. We will be communicating with her.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I think that we have perhaps covered the second item in response to opening remarks. We put some questions to you and you put some questions to us; you have answered ours and we've tried to give you our answers. You should consider our answers to be general and plenary. In the case of the ones that we have not responded to, they are a subject under advisement and we will be giving you those answers, certainly in the due course of time. We appreciate that they are important to you and we will not treat them lightly. If you want to move on to item number three, Mr. Chairman. We would like to talk to you a bit further about timing the next meeting. I believe you said that the three committees would be organized, there would be correspondence around this table, that they would be working together on those aspects of the larger problems, and that they would meet I believe in - you suggested - in mid-March... or in April. You said there's <sup>a</sup> a possibility of meeting of the full delegations sometime later.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Perhaps, Mr. Ambassador, I should clarify that to some degree. Our commission will be making an extensive study, investigation, on the various problems that we will be faced with. At that time it will require

that I be in close contact with you, if we need more time to prepare ourselves for the meeting - our sub-committees as well as the formal negotiations. I've attempted to leave us with a timetable to be thinking about, but by the same token we should be mindful of the fact that at this time we do not know precisely how much time we will require. We will be in close contact with you to discuss what the most proper time would be for the sub-committees.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: I agree with you that it's certainly not possible to set any precise dates at this time. I'd only like to say that we will certainly wish to respond to your wishes with respect to the timetable. Perhaps in our final joint <sup>t</sup>communique we should simply say that we will be meeting hopefully in early Spring.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Do you have any additional comments on item number three?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: No, I think we've pretty much settled that. We don't know when we're going to meet next. Both sides will be working pretty hard, and I think that you probably want to - as I said yesterday - move forward with this, deliberately and without delay. It's too soon to tell how much time you will need to prepare for our next meeting.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: At this time then, perhaps we can hold a short recess for drafting the joint <sup>t</sup>communique, and then perhaps we can convene to consider the final decision. Would that be appropriate at this time?

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: That's fine. I assume that you want Senator Borja and Congressman Guerrero and Mr. <sup>t</sup>White, to sit down now with Mr. Wilson and Capt. Crowe. Or do you want me in here?

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Why don't I turn the floor over to Mr. Borja and let him take appropriate steps to formulate discussion on this.

MR. BORJA: Mr. Chairman, I think I would like to ask for a recess so that our committee can get together and finalize our final communique.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: We'll call a recess until such time as we are ready. The meeting recessed at 4:08 o'clock PM.

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 o'clock PM.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Mr. Ambassador Williams, I believe the committee on the joint communique has drafted a report to us, and I turn over the floor to Mr. Borja.

MR. BORJA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the committee on the communique, I will be very happy to read the final communique made by the committee.

"The Marianas Political Status Commission and the President's Personal Representative met in Saipan December 13-14, 1972 for the formal opening of the negotiations which have been requested by the Marianas with a view to achieving union between the Mariana Islands and the United States of America.

The meetings consisted of a festive inaugural ceremony, a public plenary opening session and formal working talks. These afforded the opportunity for warm exchanges between the two delegations in anticipation of the future working relationship which will benefit all concerned.

Both sides have reviewed the history of the repeated expression of the desires of the people of the Marianas for a close and permanent association with the United States culminating in a formal request of 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' wishes.

There were no detailed negotiations or exchanges of formal proposals during the course of the meetings, but there was, on both sides, a friendly and frank exploration of the questions and issues to be resolved in the course of the substantive negotiations which will follow. The exchange that took place allowed both sides to understand more precisely the views of the other. Plans and procedures for other negotiating sessions were worked out. The next meeting which will concentrate on matters of substance will be held in the Marianas in the Spring of 1973. It was agreed that advance preliminary work would permit the overall negotiations to move swiftly to agreement on the basic principles of the relationship, leaving to other technical groups or sub-committees the development 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 which the people of the Marianas have accorded them, <sup>a</sup> spirit which makes for harmonious relations in the future.

Both sides expressed thanks to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, the District Administrator of the Marianas, and their staffs, and the Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan, 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 the Marianas Political Status Commission - Senator Edward DLG Pangelinan, Chairman, Mr. Vicente N. Santos, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Felipe A. Salas, Mr. Herman Q. Guerrero, Mr. Gregorio Calvo, Mr. Joannes R. Taimano, Mr. Herman A. Manglona, Mr. Francisco A. Hocog, Mr. Vicente T. Camacho, Mr. Daniel T. Muna, Mr. Joaquín I. Pangelinan, Dr. Francisco T. Palacios, Mr. Felix Rabauliman, Mr. Jose C. Tenorio; Staff and Consultants - Mr. James C. White, Mr. Howard P. Willens, and Mr. James Leonard. Now from the U. S. Delegation - Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, Chairman, Mr. James M. Wilson, Jr., Mr. Stanley S. Carpenter, Captain William J. Crowe, Jr., United States Navy; U. S. Advisers - Mr. Herman Marcuse, Captain Gordon Schuller, United States Navy, Mr. Adrian deGraffenried, OMSN, Miss Mary Vance Trent.

This draft of final communique, Mr. Chairman, for adoption by the members of the two delegations is for the signature of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Ambassador Williams. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Mr. Ambassador, I'd like to perhaps get my Commission together to get the final approval on this matter before we sign the communique. I would like to ask our Commission to move out to the beach area.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Why don't we move out?

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

The meeting recessed at 4:50 o'clock PM.

The meeting was called back to order at 6:20 o'clock PM.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Ambassador Williams, we're ready to proceed with the final communique which was read to us. Our Commission has reviewed the final communique and has adopted the communique with certain modifications. On paragraph three, page 1, the following is put in as an amendment to the original draft. May I read please, for the record: "Both sides reviewed the history of the repeated expressions of the people of the Marianas also expressed by the Marianas District Legislature comma for a quote "close and permanent affiliation with the United States," end-quote." We also have minor changes in the last part of the communique, under the Micronesian membership we would like for the record to have the following changes:

Howard P. Willens, Esquire, from the Washington law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, Mr. James R. Leonard of James R. Leonard Associates, Inc., James E. White, Esquire, Executive Director, and Mr. Joseph F. Screen, and I will give you the changes for the final drafting. And also one minor change, we have changed all the names and titles of the members to Mister - Senator Pangelinan is changed to Mr. Pangelinan, Dr. Palacios is changed to Mr. Vicente C. Palacios.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, those amendments are acceptable to us.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS: Before closing I would like to suggest that all the members of the Marianas Status Commission know that I'm looking forward to visiting both the Islands of Tinian and Rota on Saturday, and I also want to remind all of you that we're looking forward to being with you this evening at 7 o'clock here at this hotel for a luau. And finally, I do want to say again that all of us appreciate very much the warm welcome and hospitality that we have enjoyed over the past few days.

CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN: Mr. Ambassador, on behalf of the members of the Marianas Status Commission it is my privilege to extend to you our appreciation for your visit, and for accepting the invitation of our Commission to come to Saipan and work for us in this very important and solemn mission regarding the political status of the Marianas. We hope that the remaining days of your visit will be enjoyable, and we certainly look forward to our future meetings. We again wish you a pleasant visit here and a happy holiday. If there is no further discussion, I then suggest that we adjourn until such time that you and I decide on a definite schedule for the next meeting. This meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 o'clock PM, 14 December 1972.