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HIGHLIGHTS

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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS



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SPECIAL EDITION: The Marianas Status Talks

This Special Edition of Highlights contains all of the public statements made by the two delegations to the Marianas Status Talks, December 13 and 14, 1972.

Remarks by Chairman Edward deL.G. Pangelinan at opening ceremonies, December 13.

The members of the Marianas Political Status Commission, the leaders and people of the Marianas join me in formally welcoming the President's personal representative, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, and his delegation to the lovely islands of the Marianas and in particular, on this historic and auspicious occasion of the opening day of the first round of status talks for the purpose of considering the future political status of the Mariana Islands District.

Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the people of the Marianas. For on this day our people are taking a very crucial step toward the attainment of that inherent right of all the people of this earth—the right of self-determination, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people of the Marianas. It is well to point out that over the course of 400 years of our history, the people of the Mariana Islands District have experienced the dominance of four foreign powers in our territory. First came the Spaniards, then the Germans, followed by the Japanese, and then by the Americans. By virtue of annexation or conquest, and without any consultation and consideration, our lives, homes, lands, culture, and traditions were abruptly and drastically changed. Never was there an opportunity for our people to have the right to speak out on the important matters which faced them, such as the nature of their government, the development of their country and their future destiny. But this is now coming to an end.

The coming of the United States in Micronesia ushered in a new era for our people. The spirit of 200 years of democracy, of a society which practices the theory that a government should be "of the people, by the people, and for the people," a country that has the bill of rights, ensuring that every man is created equal under the law and guaranteeing his human rights, a country which has historically been a refuge for the oppressed and a land of opportunity for all people, these ideals were brought to the Marianas by the United States. For the first time in four centuries we could enjoy the fundamental human rights to which all men are entitled. America has brought

us economic development, education, and health care. More important, the United States has taught us how to live as free men. As a direct result, we are beginning to take seriously our obligation to ourselves and our people—our obligation to arrive at a system of government which will be most beneficial and advantageous to our people, a government that will continue to assure the fundamental equality of all men and protect and preserve the other fundamental human rights.

After a quarter-century of American Administration, our people have come to know and appreciate the American system of government. The concept of democracy has become very important and significant to us. As a result we have been very active in expressing our wishes as to the form our future government will take. We desire a close political union with the United States of America—a membership in the United States political family.

For the past 10 years or more the people of the Marianas through their duly elected representatives have on numerous occasions expressed both formally and informally to the government of the United States and to the United Nations, through petitions, resolutions adopted by the district legislature and municipal councils and in referenda, our strong desire that the Marianas become a part of the United States. As an outgrowth of this sentiment the Marianas representatives to the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia, during the fourth round of Micronesian Future Political Status talks in Koror, Palau on April 11, 1972, requested Ambassador Williams for the opportunity to institute separate talks with the Marianas District leading toward a closer and more permanent political relationship with the United States of America. In their request they stated: "We advocate our present position for the sole reason that we desire membership in the United States political family because of the demonstrated advantages of such a relationship. More than any nation with which we have had contact, the United States has brought to our people the values which we cherish and the economic goals which we desire. Continued affiliation with the United States offers the promise of the preservation of these values and the implementation of these goals."

As a result of this request and the favorable response thereto by the President's personal representative, the Marianas District Legislature held a special session in May

of this year, where the Marianas Political Status Commission was authorized. Since that time the Marianas Political Status Commission has been established and has held several meetings in preparation for this week's round of talks:

Ambassador Williams, we are delighted that you have accepted our invitation to come to Saipan for the purposes of entertaining discussions on the Future Political Status of the Marianas. The members of our commission have asked me to assure you that we are ready, able and willing to work and cooperate with your delegation on this solemn mission and we all look forward to a productive and mutually satisfactory first round of status talks.

Remarks by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams at opening ceremonies, December 13.

I bring to each of you greetings from the President of the United States, from officials of his Administration, from leaders of the Congress of the United States, and the good wishes of my fellow countrymen.

A quarter of a century ago we came to your islands in force out of military necessity as a consequence of armed aggression and of circumstances not of our making which caused you and your people suffering and hardship. During the intervening years we have remained with you as the Trustee of the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. Today the American delegation is here as your guests, having been invited to come to Saipan to begin a free and open and voluntary process leading to your stated desire—a close and enduring association between the Mariana Islands District and the United States upon the termination of your trustee status.

We are aware of the historic significance of this occasion. We are aware that for more than a decade, the people of this District have sought through referenda, through resolutions of their legislative bodies, through petitions to the United Nations, and through direct representations to my government, an end of the trusteeship and a new political status within the structure of the American nation.

Over the past four hundred years, you have been exposed to and have been governed by peoples of other lands. Historically, you have known colonialism and you have known subjugation and privation—within the lifetime of many of those present.

According to a formal statement made in the halls of the United Nations by one of your elected representatives: "After the Americans came, slowly but surely, things began to change. The American Administration guaranteed to us the fundamental freedoms which are the rights of all men... None of us had ever known these freedoms before. All of us... wanted to make certain that we would never lose them again. Sentiment for joining the American family was born."

The aspirations of the people of the Marianas for close association and political affiliation with the United States, springing from this sentiment and from the freely expressed will of the people is a matter of record. This

desire has been recognized by visiting missions of the UN Trusteeship Council, and by the findings of the initial report of the Congress of Micronesia's Political Status Commission. The indisputable fact that the Marianas aspired to a different kind of future relationship with the United States than the representatives of the other Districts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has also been acknowledged by the Micronesian Joint Future Status Committee. You have made your views known, openly and persistently to the United Nations, to the Government of the United States and to the Congress of Micronesia at each of its recent sessions and special sessions.

Last April your representatives, with the knowledge of the Joint Future Status Committee, formally requested the United States to enter into separate talks leading to a close and permanent union with my country. The petition stated: "More than any other nation with which we have had contact, the United States has brought to our people the values which we cherish and the unique goals which we desire. Continued affiliation with the United States offers the promise of the preservation of these values and the implementation of these goals."

To this the United States replied: "As the record shows, U.S. policy as the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has been to develop Micronesia toward a common status upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and our efforts have been directed toward this end..."

"The further pursuit and implementation of this objective, against the expressed will of the people of the Marianas, would deny them their right of self-determination and impose upon them a future political status which they have said is unacceptable.

"Under these circumstances, I would like to state that my Government is willing to respond affirmatively to the request that has been formally presented to us today to enter into separate negotiations with the representatives of the Marianas in order to satisfy a desire which the Joint Committee has already recognized."

In a subsequent letter signed by a broadly representative group of your elected leaders, the United States was informed that in several meetings held with the villages, municipal councils, and district government, support for separate talks was reaffirmed. The letter went on to say:

"...The desire of the people of the Mariana Islands District to become a permanent part of the United States of America is fundamental and has existed for many years. Our exposure to American democracy spans over a quarter of a century since the United States assumed administrative responsibilities of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands at the conclusion of World War II. During this time, we have grown to appreciate and cherish the ideals of democracy and we wish to join the American political family. We pledge to you and your government, our loyalty and dedication to the principles by which America stands, and further, *we stand ready to accept the responsibilities of the freedom that the United States guarantees and defends.*"

As an American and as the representative of the President of the United States, I cannot help but be moved by these words and the eloquence and sincerity of the statements of your leaders which I have cited on this occasion. As a free people, with all of our human imperfections, we cannot be less than enheartened and grateful that after coming to know us, the people of the Marianas would have reached the conclusion, voluntarily, that you desire to become a permanent part of the American family, that you have chosen to place your faith in the ideals which continue to guide and motivate the American nation as it strives to perfect its own system and to improve the quality of life of its citizens and people everywhere!

As I have thought about your sentiments, your words of hope and commitment, I am reminded of what Adlai Stevenson once said: "When an American says that he loves his country, he means not only that he loves the New England hills, the prairies glistening in the sun, the wide and rising plains, the great mountains and the sea. He means that he loves an inner air, an inner light in which freedom lives and in which a man can draw the breath of self-respect."

We know, too, that the people of these islands, young and old, rightfully love their own land and its special kind of beauty. We recognize that you have your own traditions and a cultural heritage which is meaningful to you—one which you will, as you should, take steps to preserve as you move toward a new relationship with America.

The United States is more than a political union. It is a family of people from all parts of the world coming from different historical, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Our country has gained strength and renewed purpose from the diversity of its people, from those who by personal choice have sought to become citizens and who have joined with their fellow Americans of all races and creeds in a common cause of assuring their own liberty, of improving their own standard of life, and of contributing to the betterment of the larger American community and the world society. We thus look forward to your becoming a part of our future, knowing that your own special contributions will enrich our national life.

Today, our two delegations set out together on an historic venture, which with good will on both sides, should set the peoples of the Marianas high on the path toward the realization of their long cherished aspiration. We welcome the opportunity and the invitation to be here to work closely with your appointed delegates. As we approach the task of planning for a new beginning of our relationship we will be building on the trust which already exists. With mutual respect and good will we are confident that our deliberations can bring to early fruition a freely sought and a freely made covenant which will serve and protect your interests. Our aim will be to honor and respect your wishes and to build a firm foundation for a lasting friendship and mutually beneficial and satisfactory future relationship.

In the end the product of our joint effort will be subject to the popular will of the people of the Marianas.

Through referenda and other means you have already made known and unmistakably clear the ultimate objective which you seek. By plebiscite you will be given in due course the opportunity to review and approve the final agreement between the Mariana Islands District and the United States.

I would now like to read to you a message from the President of the United States which he has asked me to convey to the Members of the Marianas Political Status Commission and to all of the people of the Marianas:

Dear Ambassador Williams:

You have my very best wishes as you begin discussions with the representatives of the Mariana Islands looking toward a close and permanent association between the islands and the United States. I wish you every success in these talks.

Please convey my warm greetings to the representatives of the Mariana Islands. The United States, as a Pacific nation, is deeply concerned both for the stability of this vital area, and for the security and well-being of the Marianas people. In this spirit we are looking forward to a continuing mutually advantageous relationship with the Mariana Islands.

Sincerely,

RICHARD NIXON

President Nixon's words of support and encouragement and the sentiments expressed here this morning by your leaders will serve as an inspiration to us as we strive to achieve your long awaited and anticipated goal. It is my fervent hope that when our work is ended, we will have added new substance and glory to our beloved anthem,

"America, America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea!"

Opening statement by Chairman Pangelinan at plenary session, December 13.

On behalf of the Marianas Political Status Commission and the people of the Mariana Islands, it is my pleasure to welcome you, Ambassador Williams, and your staff to our fair islands for this most solemn purpose of considering our future political status. As stated this morning, our Commission was formed as a result of our long desire for close political association with the United States as expressed by the people of the Marianas and their legislature. I have had many occasions in the past to work with you and most of your Delegation and I feel quite confident that with the involvement of these fine people our job, although difficult, will be pursued with diligence and integrity. I would at this time like to review some of the major considerations that will have to be adequately covered.

1) Future Political Status

Although the people of the Marianas desire to establish a close political affiliation with the Government of the United States, the exact form and substance of that relationship remains to be decided. The Marianas Political Status Commission plans to undertake a thorough analysis of the various forms of political relationship which might be established between the United States and the Marianas. In particular, we plan to examine the unincorporated territory and commonwealth alternatives to ascertain whether either of these approaches can be adapted to the political aspirations and economic goals of the Marianas. We intended to examine and explore the actual experience of Guam, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico to see if the political and economic development in those areas suggests any problems or difficulties which the Marianas should avoid. Based upon such an examination, our Commission might well conclude that neither the territory nor commonwealth format is acceptable. It may well be necessary to develop a totally new political status for the Marianas.

We hope that the United States will collaborate in this search for the political status best suited to the needs and aspirations of the people of the Marianas. If none of the traditional approaches proves to be acceptable, we hope that the United States will be flexible and responsive to our desire to develop a political status unique to the Marianas. After all—there was no established precedent for the Constitution of the United States in 1789.

In the early stages of these negotiations it would be most helpful if the representatives of the United States could advise the Marianas of any general constraints or problem areas with respect to political status. It would be helpful to be so advised at the earliest possible date. With this information in hand, our mutual efforts to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion to these political status negotiations can be most productive and expeditious.

2 Land

Once a political format of close association has been developed for the Mariana Islands, it would then be appropriate for all military retention and public land to be turned over to the Government of the Mariana Islands. This will properly recognize the sovereignty of people of the Mariana Islands over their land. Thereafter, negotiations regarding any desired military and public uses for this land could be conducted with the sovereign governmental body of the Marianas. This certainly would, in our view, be the best way of handling the land transition problems.

However, if the United States felt that it might need more certain guarantees with reference to particular military uses of some of the land, we believe that this subject would be an appropriate matter of discussion at these sessions. We respectfully suggest that such discussion should focus on the military's actual present land needs, dealing with such specific areas as location, size and proposed use. Additionally, future needs should be estimated so our economic planners can be fully informed. In reference to both present and future needs,

the proposed use of this land is an important area of discussion because of possible environmental and economical consequences to the land itself and the adjoining property.

Where land is used by the military, we believe that joint use of the developed easement and facilities is appropriate. We do not wish to create any undue problems for the military, but suggest that such an arrangement will enable us to have a good solid working relationship with the military right from the start and avoid the controversies that could otherwise develop. We should also discuss other areas of joint involvement, such as air fields, sewer lines, telephone, water, electricity and other basic utilities. Placement of roads and costs of their upkeep also should be considered. We want the people of the Mariana Islands and the military to be involved together in the use and development of our lands. We do not want a separate military establishment in the Mariana Islands that is not environmentally, economically, ethnically and socially integrated with the Mariana Islands society. In other words, we believe that the military representatives of the United States should reflect a commitment to the people of our islands and their aspirations. We are fully aware of the many barriers that exist to establishing a harmonious relationship with the military. Nevertheless, we request that our Commission and this delegation work energetically toward developing and perfecting such a relationship.

One other large problem in reference to land is whether or not eminent domain should apply and the alienability of land to non-Marianas citizens. To what extent should non-citizens of the Mariana Islands be able to purchase or use land? The various answers to this question, along with their effect on the economic development of the islands and the rights of our people, should be thoroughly discussed. Land—its use, sale, and development—is probably the most important and difficult problem we face in our future. Our grandchildren will one day review what we do here and to fail to protect not only our present self interest but also their future would indeed be a sad epilogue to the negotiations which we begin today. We are confident that the United States can assist us in solving these problems and do so in a way which truly reveals that concern for brotherhood and human dignity that the United States is known for throughout the world.

3) Economics and Finance

Another broad area of important issues to be considered during these negotiations relates to economics and finance. We in the Marianas are keenly aware of the importance of these matters. Indeed, our desire for the political stability inherent in a close relationship with the United States is premised upon our conviction that such stability will enhance our capacity to develop our resources and to improve the economic well-being of our citizens. Without attempting to list all the issues in this area, let me identify a few of the key questions involving economics and finance which should be on our agenda during these discussions.

a) First, there is the question of providing funds for supporting the institutions of self-government in the

Marianas. In time, as the nature of these institutions becomes clearer, it will be necessary to estimate their cost and arrive, at some mutually acceptable source of funds for these essential purposes.

b) The Marianas recognizes that the public monies made available by the United States during the period of its trusteeship have been provided through various grant programs authorized under United States laws. We will want to explore the continuation of such programs at the same time that we strive to make them more responsive to the needs of the people of the Marianas as expressed through their elected representatives.

c) Third, additional funds are clearly needed for the economic development of the Marianas. As numerous studies have made clear, it would be desirable to develop small industries in the the Marianas which will further the rational exploitation of our resources consistent with the protection of the environment and the economic sovereignty of its people. We want to take advantage of the planning which has already been completed under United States auspices and move forward to implement, in gradual steps, those projects which appear both feasible and most promising.

d) In like fashion, we also need to discuss the capabilities of the Marianas to raise money through taxation, and the extent to which additional funds could be provided by the United States on an unrestricted basis. It would obviously be desirable from a planning standpoint to have the amount of these funds calculated annually upon some objective basis. Once this principle is established, many different means of implementing such an approach could be readily reviewed and evaluated. The matching of tax revenues raised by the Marianas is only one such approach. Another might be to base the United States contribution on the value of the land which it uses, or plans to use, in the Marianas. In addition, a grant of funds to bring the Marianas infrastructure up to par during the early years after the end of the trusteeship may be appropriate.

e) A last important item in this general area relates to the opportunities for foreign investors in the Marianas under a new political status. Considerable interest has been expressed by foreign business concerns in business opportunities in the Marianas. We in the Marianas want to be able to explore and profit from these possibilities as soon as possible, always keeping in mind the environmental and sociological impact on the Marianas.

4) Transition

Once the political status format is chosen, the land and economic problems have been adequately provided for, we then have a final problem of smooth transition from the present political entity to the new one. If we mutually arrive at the new political status for the Marianas before the remainder of Trust Territory resolves its status, we believe that our new status should be initiated without delay. We recognize that numerous procedural problems may be raised by such a possibility, involving such delicate matters as securing the necessary approvals of the Congress of the United States and the United Nations and

deciding how to allocate the assets presently belonging to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The principle involved, however, should be clearly recognized. If these discussions are being undertaken in good faith by both parties—as I am sure is the case—then we must be prepared to implement any new political status for the Marianas as promptly as possible.

I have not attempted here to cover all the potential problems that will arise in these negotiations, but only to highlight what I presently think are some of the important points which we must consider. Let me say again, we are glad you are here today to open these discussions and we look forward to a productive and mutually satisfactory outcome to our efforts.

Opening statement by Ambassador Williams at plenary session, December 13.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Marianas Political Status Commission, I open my remarks at this initial plenary session by reiteration of what I said this morning at the ceremonies marking the beginning of these important talks. We are honored that you and your people, acting in a free and democratic fashion in the exercise of your right of self-determination, have chosen the path leading toward a close and permanent political association with the United States. We are sincerely grateful for the trust you have shown us, and are fully cognizant of our obligations to measure up to the important challenge before us of framing relationships which will justify your faith you have placed in my country.

We have traveled to your island in response to your initiative and your invitation. The events leading up to our presence here this afternoon began more than ten years ago. Today marks the end of along campaign on your part of recognition of your long held desires. But, the end is also the beginning for all of us as we commence the formal process of negotiations to obtain your stated objectives. Speaking for myself, and the American Delegation, we wish to pledge to you, our full cooperation in proceeding deliberately and without delay toward a satisfactory agreement. We represent the Executive Branch of the United States Government. While I cannot, of course, speak for the American Congress, I can assure you that we will be in close consultation with the leadership before our House and our Senate upon our return and during the course of these talks. Their understanding and support is of course essential since any solution we reach would be subject to Presidential and Congressional approval.

On your side of the table we note, with satisfaction, the composition of your Delegation is broadly representative of the people of the Marianas as your commission of both private and public members and representatives is drawn from all the principal islands and municipalities of the district. We've also noted, and wish to congratulate the Marianas District Legislature on, the

manner of appointment that was followed in naming the members of the commission. This democratic process should assure the wishes and the voices of your people will be considered and heard during these talks, through the representatives on the commission.

I would like to repeat, for emphasis, one more thing which I said this mornig. In the end, the product of our efforts will be presented to the people of this district for their approval. Meanwhile, we are proceeding for our part on the understanding that your commission represents the people of the Marianas, and speaks under its authority.

Let me turn now to the question of what we hope to accomplish in this initial meeting of our two delegations. First, we hope that our very presence here this afternoon demonstrates the serious intent of my Government to take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples of the Marianas and their desire to become a permanent part of the American family. Second, we hope that in this organizational meeting we set forth basic procedures for the conduct of these talks, and to discuss a timetable for future meetings. And finally, we hope to identify major areas for further study in preparation for our subsequent meeting through open exchange and listening to you as we have.

We have been informed that you prefer not to go deeply into substance or into details and specifics in advance of your having adequate time to conduct your own studies and your own internal consultations. We therefore, have not brought with us any concrete proposals to lay before you. After hearing your preliminary views we will be in a better position to concentrate our efforts on answering your questions and on preparing for presentation to you at our next formal session, precise proposals to serve as basic departure points for our negotiations.

We are aware of your understandable interest in the nature and the form of the political relationship which will emerge from our talks and in particular the terms under which you will govern your own internal affairs within the framework of the larger American system.

We also recognize the importance of the financial considerations and future arrangements that relate to your economic needs and your orderly future growth and development. Further, we understand your desire to explore your eligibility and your access to the U.S. federal system with its wide range of programs and services. These will be important items on our future agenda as well as such other issues as trade and foreign investment and the provision of adequate protection and support to your new government and people as the Marianas enters into a new relationship with us.

Your land is of particular importance to you. We recognize this. Special consideration should and will be given to the disposition of the public lands of the Marianas now held in the public trust. We will also be discussing with you our requirements for land for defense purposes and arrangements for meeting them on a fair and equitable basis. Finally, we wish to discuss and share with you the problem of land alienation.

You have already, this afternoon, outlined a number of questions in each of these important and basic areas. Some of them can be addressed in a preliminary way at our working session tomorrow. Others will require more time and study and exchange in advance of our next formal round of talks. All of your questions are helpful to us and we will be prepared to provide you with our positions on each of them prior to or at our next meeting of the two delegations.

For the present I would like to limit my remaining remarks this afternoon to the following broad and general statements touching on the areas of future status, finance and land.

As you know, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands all vary to a greater or lesser extent in terms of their relationship with the Federal Government and their internal governmental structure. Their differing characteristics stem from certain historical factors, the stage of their development, and other considerations and circumstances which are peculiar to the territory concerned. Different names describe their particular political organization and relationship to the United States. These range from possessions and unincorporated and unorganized territories to commonwealth. As models, they are interesting, but the important thing to remember is that their political status has not remained static. This evolution reflecting changing conditions has modified the legal and political relationships between these members of the American family and the Federal Government with the result that progressively they have enjoyed greater self-government and increasing participation in the political life of the Republic.

Leaving political labels aside, let me point out that all of the political entities under the American flag, different although they may be, still enjoy certain things in common: 1 - certain basic rights as provided by our Constitution, 2 - certain basic guarantees as American citizens or nationals, 3 - certain basic obligations, and 4 - certain basic benefits.

These areas, the ones that I have mentioned, have profited from the association and from the material as well as the intangible benefits which have been the fruit of our national political life and our progress and our prosperity. As part of a larger democratic system, the resources of the American Government have been brought to bear on the problems and needs of its territories just as with the states of the union. This same sharing, in both obligations and benefits, which would apply in the case of the Marianas once the new relationship which we are contemplating has been consummated.

The exact nature and terms of our future associations remain to be worked out. You have, in the past at various times, expressed an interest in more than one type of association, including separate territorial status and reintegration with your cousins to the south. You have most recently indicated your approval of the basic principles underlying the American Commonwealth Proposal of May 1970, which was offered to all of Micronesia. Such a structural framework, tailored

specifically to the Marianas would afford you internal autonomy with regard to local affairs and certain guarantees and privileges stemming from your membership in the American system including basic benefits of a financial nature.

In looking ahead to our fuller and more detailed discussion of finance, I would simply like to say at this time that we are not thinking in terms of a quid pro quo but rather in terms of a joint exploration of needs on the one hand and resources to meet them on the other. While financial arrangement and budgetary support from federal sources would be subject to Congressional approval and the annual budgetary process, we foresee, on the basis of past practice, continuing assistance being provided to the Marianas along the following lines: Federal grants to your government matching the revenues collected locally, additional budgetary support as may be required until such time as the Marianas would have developed an adequate tax base, and the provision of the full range of federal programs and services which are available to all the states and territories of the United States for such things as public works, health and education, housing and other programs of an economic and social nature designed to improve the quality of life of the American people and the American nation.

In brief, I can assure you that the future financial needs of the Marianas and your concern for the kind of economic progress that will benefit your people will be given every consideration during these talks since I envisage your islands becoming ultimately a part of the larger American system. You should thereby derive those benefits which accrue from a status just as other parts of the American nation do.

Let me turn now to the question of land. As I have said, we recognize full well how deeply the people of the Marianas feel about their land, and how important it is to their future.

As you know, a large percentage of Marianas land is public trust land and we are well aware of your concern about the disposition of this land upon a change in your political status. We hope as part of these negotiations to arrive at agreements which will provide for the Federal Government's future land requirements in the Marianas. With those minimal needs met, we expect that all remaining public lands in the Marianas would be transferred to the new government of the Marianas. At that point the responsibility for use or disposition of these large land holdings would reside in the people of this District and your own political and legislative processes.

In a similar vein, we share your concern about the threat of land alienation under a new status. We are determined to work with you to find ways to protect against the alienation of your land. It is our expectation that under any form of close association, the people of the Marianas would become U.S. citizens, if that is their

desire. Accordingly, any land safeguards must take into consideration the United States Constitution. We are studying this problem carefully and are confident that in our forthcoming discussions we can work out, jointly with you, a plan that will meet your particular needs while remaining consistent with the United States Constitution.

Now a few brief remarks about U.S. Military land needs. The general statements which I made at Hana, Maui, in October 1971 regarding the Marianas remain valid, but will of course, require considerable elaboration as the negotiations proceed.

The Department of Defense is currently making a series of studies aimed toward specifically identifying future military land needs in the Marianas. Moreover, cultural and socio-economic considerations will be very much a part of this review. As the negotiations move to detailed discussions, the United States Delegation will be prepared to present specific proposals designed to satisfy the United States military needs while taking into account the basic interests of the people of the Marianas.

As stated at Hana, the United States current thinking is to consolidate its military activities as much as possible on the Island of Tinian in order to avoid as much disruption as possible of normal civilian activities throughout the rest of the Marianas. Current plans call for the development of a joint service-Air Force, Navy, Marine Airfield/Logistic Facility on the Island of Tinian and to rehabilitate the harbor.

It is also possible that limited activities such as maintenance, communications and logistics support facilities might be developed on Saipan at Isley Field and Tanapag Harbor, but these will not-repeat, not-constitute major requirements.

We anticipate that the Marianas will derive side benefits as well as direct payments for lands used as a result of a U.S. military presence. To begin with, we will attempt to structure any base planning so as to provide maximum employment opportunities for the local people.

In addition to the monies paid for land and improvements, the tangible fringe benefits of civilian employment, local purchases and military payroll will contribute to your economy. Moreover, the associated infrastructure will likewise benefit local residents-that is, roads, docks, dredging, etcetera, etcetera.

In closing this very preliminary discussion of military land requirements, I should stress that my government is fully conscious of the need to work hand-in-hand with you to work out ways for achieving our objectives with maximum harmony and a minimum of trouble to the people of the Marianas.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Marianas Status Commission, this concludes my opening plenary remarks. We look forward to meeting with you again tomorrow in a working session.

Final Joint Communique issued at the conclusion of the talks, December 14.

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

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

Both sides reviewed the history of the repeated expressions of the desires of the people of the Marianas, as expressed by the Marianas District Legislature, for a "close and permanent affiliation 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' wishes.

There were no detailed negotiations or exchange 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 exchanges that took place allowed both sides to understand more precisely the views of the other.

Plans and procedures for future 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 will 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, a spirit which makes for harmonious relations in the future.

Both sides express warm 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:

Marianas Political Status Commission

Mr. Edward DLG. Pangelinan, Chairman
Mr. Vicente N. Santos, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Felipe A. Salas
Mr. Herman O. Guerrero
Mr. Olympio T. Borja
Mr. Gregorio Calvo
Mr. Joannes R. Taimanao
Mr. Herman M. Manglona
Mr. Francisco A. Hocog
Mr. Vicente T. Camacho
Mr. Daniel T. Muna
Mr. Joaquin T. Pangelinan
Mr. Francisco T. Palacios
Mr. Felix Rabauliman
Mr. Jose C. Tenorio

Staff and Consultants

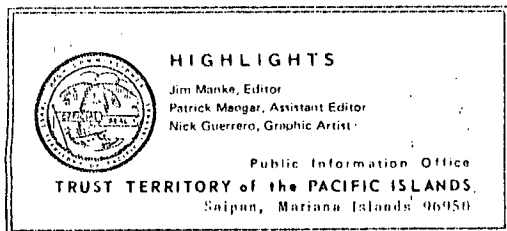
Howard P. Williams, Esquire of the Washington Law Firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering
Mr. James R. Leonard of James R. Leonard Associates, Inc.
James E. White, Esquire
Executive Director
Mr. Joseph E. Screen

U.S. Delegation

Ambassador Franklin Hayden Williams,
The President's Personal Representative
Mr. James M. Wilson, Jr.
Mr. Stanley S. Carpenter
Captain William J. Crowe, Jr., USN

U.S. Advisors

Mr. Herman Marcuse
Captain Gordon J. Schuller, USN
Mr. Adrian deGraffenried
Miss Mary Vance Trent



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