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MARIANAS



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Memorandum

To: James M. Wilson, Jr., Micronesian Status Negotiations

From: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Territorial Affairs

Subject: Proposed interim United States legislation for the Mariana Islands District

Please refer to my November 24, 1972, Memorandum, and my Memorandum of even date herewith, concerning a separate government for the Mariana Islands District. In the event that a satisfactory form of government is found for the Mariana Islands pursuant to a constitutional convention, we would make the following legislative proposals to the United States Congress:

1. Amend Section 22 of the 1950 Organic Act for Guam, as amended, 48 U.S.C. 1424, to change the name of the District Court of Guam to the District Court of the Western Pacific and to expand its original and appellate jurisdiction to include cases arising out of the Mariana Islands District.

The purpose of this proposal is to provide for the entire area a uniform judicial system with access to the Federal courts. This will facilitate administration of the area and the future unification of the Mariana Islands and Guam.

2. Extend United States citizenship to the peoples of the Mariana Islands. 48 U.S.C. 14217, with appropriate changes would provide the prototype for this legislation.

Discussions with representatives of the Marianas Political Status Commission indicate that they are interested in a permanent de jure commitment by the United States to a satisfactory political relationship at the earliest practicable date. It has been explained to them that such a commitment cannot be made (in the international sense) until the Trusteeship Agreement has been terminated as to the whole of Micronesia and that this may take considerable time.

One thing, however, that the United States Congress can do now to insure its good faith intent to bring the Mariana Islands into the Federal family when it is able would be to extend U.S. citizenship to the peoples of those Islands. It would appear that the positive benefits of this step cannot be overestimated.

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3. Amend Headnote 3(A) of the General Tariff Schedules to include the duty free entry into the United States of foreign origin goods from the Mariana Islands if 50 percent or more of their value has been added there.

This proposal would equate the Mariana Islands to the other territories of the United States and would tend to encourage the development of light industries seeking U. S. markets.

4. Amend Public Law 92-271 which provides for non-voting delegates from Guam and the Virgin Islands in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress to expand the representative duties of the non-voting delegates from Guam to include representation of the peoples of the Mariana Islands, to change his title to the non-voting delegate of the Western Pacific, and to permit the people of the Mariana Islands to participate in future elections of the non-voting delegate.

The benefits of this proposal are self-evident. Further, it would be another commitment by the U. S. Congress to a permanent political relationship in the future.

5. Amend the Government Comptroller Bill for Guam, 48 U.S.C. 1422d, to expand his auditing and reporting functions to include the Mariana Islands.

This is an important (though probably unpopular locally) amendment, because the U. S. Congress will have substantial and continuing interests in the fiscal affairs of the Mariana Islands and will want some assurance that they are being properly managed.

6. Amend the U. S. minimum wage laws to include the Mariana Islands.

The Mariana Islands would be put on a wage board basis, such as that currently used for American Samoa and the Virgin Islands. Over a period of years, the Marianas minimum wage gradually would be raised until equal to Federal standards. Although Guam's local minimum wage levels are presently somewhat higher than Federal standards, the gradual effect of this action would be to put the Mariana Islands and Guam on a roughly equal footing as far as the cost of labor is concerned, so as to eliminate a major obstacle to the movement of labor and economic integration.

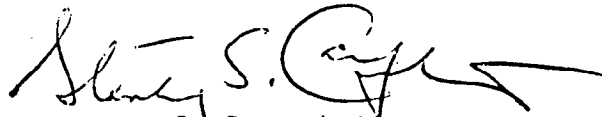
7. Extend the Social Security laws of the United States to the Mariana Islands.

The benefits of this proposal are self-evident.

It should be kept in mind that all Federal laws currently applicable in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands will continue applicable in the Mariana Islands. In addition, other legislative proposals

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undoubtedly will occur to us in the future. For example, some amendments to the Federal extradition laws may be desirable. However, the above-listed proposals would appear, for the time being at least, to cover the salient points of common interest.



Stanley S. Carpenter
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Territorial Affairs