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February 5, 1973

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Mr. Edward DLG Pangelinan
Chairman
Marianas Political Status Commission
P. O. Box 825
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Ed:

Enclosed is a copy of our memorandum regarding the meeting with Mr. Wilson and others a few weeks ago. As you will note, the meeting was fairly useful with respect to the delegation's thinking regarding the next round of negotiations and the materials which might be made available in advance of such negotiations.

As you probably know by now, we did not have any meeting with the U.N. Visiting Mission. The two days of briefing planned for the Mission was compressed into a single day because of the national day of mourning for former President Johnson. Consequently we were informed by the State Department that there would be no time available for any such meeting with us. In addition, we were informed that the Mission desired to meet with all of the consultants involved in the negotiations, including Paul Warnke. Since Paul was then in Saipan, it was necessary to defer any meeting until some future date.

I talked with Paul after he returned to Washington and he expressed a willingness to participate in a joint meeting with the Visiting Mission after its return from Micronesia. It may be, however, that no useful purpose could be served by a meeting at that time and it should certainly

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depend upon your own discussions with the Visiting Mission and your judgment as to what, if anything, we could add.

Paul also mentioned that an effort may be made to have another round of negotiations between the United States and the Joint Committee in May. I would appreciate your keeping me informed as to any such plans, since it obviously affects the timetable for our own negotiations. I think it would probably be in our interest to have the next round of our discussions before the Joint Committee's negotiations so that you and the members of the Marianas Political Status Commission will have a more definite idea of the options available to the Marianas at the conclusion of the Joint Committee's negotiations. If those discussions are held in Washington, as Paul suggested might be the case, then we would have a chance to consult with you in Washington at the conclusion of the Joint Committee's negotiations and plan our future program with respect to the separate Marianas status talks.

If you are in general accord with this timetable, I suggest that we should begin discussing possible dates with Ambassador Williams or his staff some time this month.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

Enclosure

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January 20, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: Meeting on Marianas with James Wilson and Others
at the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations

On the afternoon of January 17, Messrs. Willens, Carter, Leonard, and William Bozman (of Leonard Associates) met in the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations with a number of U.S. officials connected with the Marianas negotiations. These people were James Wilson, Captain William Crowe, Adrian deGaffenried, and Harmon Kirby (a Foreign Service Officer recently assigned to Williams' staff). The meeting lasted about one and a half hours.

After the usual amenities Mr. Wilson raised the question of the scheduled visit to Washington of the United Nations Visiting Mission. According to Mr. Wilson, the Mission plans to be in the Trust Territory from February 2 until the first week in March. He informed us that the U.N. Secretariat had contacted the United States Government to inquire if the Marianas Political Status Commission would object to a meeting between the Visiting Mission and the Marianas advisers located in Washington. Mr. Wilson reported that Chairman Pangelinan had no objections to such a meeting and inquired whether we would be available. Captain Crowe expressed his opinion that the Visiting Mission would be interested in exploring whether the Marianas are in fact independent from the United States and whether the separate Marianas negotiations are legal. Messrs. Willens and Leonard said that they would defer judgment on the matter until they had a chance to consult further and would let Mr. Wilson or his staff know of their decision within the next few days.

Mr. Wilson informed us generally of the opinions which he heard regarding the Marianas negotiations during his recent trip through the Trust Territory. He concluded that their views on this subject were mixed. He reported that opinion in Truk was generally hostile but that in Ponape none of the persons to whom he spoke seemed particularly excited one way or the other. He reported that the people in the Marshalls generally had the same views as those in Ponape.

At Mr. Willens' suggestion, the meeting then turned to a discussion of the next round of negotiations with respect to the Marianas. He suggested that the negotiations might proceed more expeditiously if the United States were to make its position and the supporting materials available in advance to be evaluated by the members of the Marianas Political Status Commission. In return, Mr. Willens said that the Commission might be able to present its views regarding political status to the United States in advance of the next formal negotiations. Mr. Wilson generally was receptive to the suggestion of advance consultation between the two parties to the negotiations. Captain Crowe recalled the experience with respect to the Joint Committee where both sides met in working groups and exchanged drafts. Captain Crowe suggested that Messrs. Pangelinan and Santos might wish to come to Washington or San Francisco ahead of the next round of negotiations to discuss possible approaches and try to organize the next round of talks. Mr. Willens stated that this was a possibility which he would raise with the Chairman but that Mr. Wilson and the others must realize that time must be afforded so that all members of the Commission can be fully involved in the negotiations.

Mr. Willens suggested that it would be helpful to have fairly detailed programs from the United States during or by the end of the working sessions which have been tentatively discussed. Both Mr. Wilson and Captain Crowe seemed to agree that this was a definite possibility and that a detailed statement of the United States' military requirements, especially for Tinian, might be available. Captain Crowe suggested that although there were considerable uncertainties regarding military requirements, the United States was committed to tell the members of the Commission exactly what its position is on this subject. This might even include a broad estimate of the economic effects of the proposed plans for military development. In response to a question from Mr. Leonard, Captain Crowe stated that the package of information and/or proposals from the United States would include maps of the villages, road, and infrastructures.

The meeting was very amicable and Mr. Wilson offered the continued assistance of his staff to help us in our work for the Commission.

Barry Carter

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