

Included in Transcript of
Second Session

5/15/73

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REMARKS OF SENATOR EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS
POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS, MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION,
AND HONORED GUESTS:

ON BEHALF OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, IT IS
MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU HERE TO CONTINUE THE DELIBERATIONS WHICH WE
BEGAN LAST DECEMBER LOOKING TOWARD A CLOSE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES.

AS YOU KNOW, EACH MEMBER OF THIS COMMISSION APPROACHES THIS
SOLEMN ASSIGNMENT WITH A FULL SENSE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. EACH
OF US MAY HAVE A DIFFERENT BACKGROUND OR DIFFERENT CONSTITUENTS, BUT THE
MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION ARE UNITED IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO DO WHAT
IS BEST FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS. WE CANNOT ESCAPE--OR DELEGATE--
THIS RESPONSIBILITY. NOR DO WE WANT TO. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW
POLITICAL STATUS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS--IN A SECURE AND CLOSE
POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES--IS A CHALLENGE WORTHY OF
ANY MAN'S ABILITIES AND BEST EFFORTS. THE COMMISSION ACCEPTS THIS
CHALLENGE WITH ENTHUSIASM.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION HAVE
PREPARED DILIGENTLY FOR THIS SESSION OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE HAVE ALREADY
DELIVERED TWO DETAILED POSITION PAPERS TO YOU ON THE SUBJECTS OF POLITICAL
STATUS AND ECONOMICS. THE COMMISSION LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION OF THESE PAPERS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THEM FURTHER
WITH YOU IN OUR WORKING SESSIONS. THE COMMISSION IS CONTINUING ITS
DELIBERATIONS ON OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS AND OTHER POSITION PAPERS MAY
BE PREPARED. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT THIS METHOD OF PREPARATION WOULD

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ASSIST IN MAKING THESE NEGOTIATIONS CONCRETE AND MUTUALLY PRODUCTIVE.
I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR INITIAL WORKING SESSIONS WILL CONFIRM OUR
EXPECTATIONS IN THIS REGARD.

THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION ARE WELL AWARE OF THE
COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE
ARE AREAS WHERE AGREEMENT WILL COME EASILY AND OTHERS WHERE THE DIFFERENCES
WILL SEEM AT FIRST GLANCE TO BE INSURMOUNTABLE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT
THIS COMMISSION IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALL ISSUES WITH AN OPEN MIND AND
TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH. WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE
SOLUTIONS TO DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. NEITHER OUR CONSTITUENTS NOR OUR
DESCENDANTS WOULD TOLERATE SUCH ACTION BY THIS COMMISSION. OUR REPORT
MUST GO TO THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND THEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
MARIANAS. EVERY MEMBER OF THIS COMMISSION WANTS TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND
THE PRODUCT OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE. OUR WORK
TOGETHER IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS CAN PRODUCE AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL
BRING HONOR TO YOUR GOVERNMENT AND ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS
TO ACHIEVE IN FULL MEASURE THE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS LONG SYMBOLIZED BY
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

May 15, 1973

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