

July 9, 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Subject: Marianas Political Status Commission - Conversation
with Mr. Wilson

Jim Wilson of the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations called me today with respect to the scheduling of working group meetings. The following transpired:

1. In connection with the working group of lawyers, I said that we would be ready and interested in meeting within the next two weeks on a preliminary basis. I told Mr. Wilson that several projects were underway in connection with the items for consideration in this working group, but that the final product of these efforts would not be available for several weeks. Nevertheless, I said that a preliminary meeting would be useful in order to have the lawyers representing both sides discuss the items on the Committee's agenda, find out what work was underway, and decide what additional projects might be undertaken by either of the two sides or on a joint basis. He seemed to think that this was an appropriate way to proceed. In light of my comments, he said that he would now turn his attention toward selecting the members of this particular working group and would be in touch with me about a meeting date.

2. I asked what his plans were regarding the working group on economics and financial support. He said that he intended to call Jim Leonard about this matter and I encouraged him to do so. He stated that he was aware that Jim Leonard has some representatives currently in the Marianas and I allowed as though Jim would probably not want to discuss certain items in the working group until he had the results of the field work now underway. I expressed my view, however, that a preliminary meeting of this working group might also be appropriate within the next few weeks. In the course of discussing this matter Mr. Wilson gave me some indication that he was reaching out to involve additional people in this phase of the negotiations.

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3. I asked Mr. Wilson whether he contemplated any meetings on the subject of military land proposals before the next round of negotiations. He replied in the affirmative but indicated that such discussions would not be appropriate until the various surveys on Tinian were completed. He suggested that this might not be done until late in the summer or early fall. I reminded him that we were interested in meeting to discuss this subject, including such matters as the United States request for land on Saipan for contingency purposes.

4. He reported that some progress is being made on the subject of public land, both here and in the Trust Territory. Also, he characterized this area as very technical and complicated. In response to my inquiry, he stated that it might be useful to have a discussion on this subject also in Washington before the next session.

I told Mr. Wilson that I was going to be in town for the remainder of July but that it was possible that I would be unavailable during the first two weeks of August. I expressed my hope that we could have some of the preliminary meetings scheduled during this month. He said that this was entirely feasible and that he would be in contact with us with a proposal for scheduling these meetings.

H.P. Willens

cc: Mr. Pangelinan
Mr. White
Mr. Lapin
Mr. Carter