

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

The Old Executive Building  
Room 361  
Washington, D. C. 20506

*about Sept. 27, 1973*

The Honorable Carlos G. Comacho  
Governor of Guam  
Office of the Governor  
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Governor Comacho:

On returning from his recent trip to Guam, Mr. Stanley Carpenter reported to us on the substance of his recent conversation with you regarding the status negotiations with the Marianas Political Status Commission. He mentioned in particular your concern regarding two things--your continued desire to have an observer at the talks and your concern about not being kept fully informed on the talks by me or members of my delegation. I am also advised that Lt. Governor Moylan, testifying this week in Washington on the submerged land legislation, was questioned on the same subject by Chairman Burton and voiced similar concerns.

With regard to the matter of a Guamanian observer at the talks, you will remember that we discussed this matter at my meeting with you, Mr. Moylan and Mr. Sanchez last December and I said we would welcome such participation but could not decide it alone. I agreed at that time to take the question up with Senator Pangelinan as soon as possible and did so. Unfortunately, the MPSC took a position against the presence of an observer from Guam at the executive negotiating sessions, although an observer would be most welcome in the open sessions. As I recall, when I reported this to you later in December, you and Lt. Governor Moylan said you would take the question up yourselves with Senator Pangelinan.

So far as briefings are concerned, I would welcome any suggestions you may have for making them more complete. As I quickly review in my mind the occasions and the substance of discussions which I, or Arthur Hummel, or my deputy, Mr. James Wilson, have had with you and the Lt. Governor and members of your staff, both there and here in Washington, I am frankly hard put to see how our many consultations to date could have been more forthcoming. We have made an effort to brief you in advance, during and following each of the two negotiating sessions held so far. I believe we have also provided you with all of the written material on the first two rounds of talks.

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I wish to assure you again that I fully recognize the importance of these negotiations to Guam and I want to ask whether you feel there is indeed any ground which might inadvertently have been left uncovered and, more importantly, whether by working together we might improve procedures for future consultations between us and other appropriate Guamanian leaders to better meet your local needs.

I might remind you that Mary Vance Trent, my Liaison Officer in Saipan, is always available and, as I have promised, she is ready to meet with you or your representative on request to discuss status matters. She also has standing instructions to keep you filled in regarding important developments as they occur.

We will certainly continue to do our best to keep you fully informed and to seek your advice. Meanwhile, should you or the Lt. Governor be in Washington or San Francisco, I would be delighted to meet with you. Should I be away from Washington, Jim Wilson would certainly welcome the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern.

With warmest best regards,

Respectfully yours,

Franklin Haydn Williams  
The President's Personal Representative  
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

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cc: OMSN  
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