

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF Joint Statement issued October 23 in San Francisco by Senator Pangelinan and Ambassador Williams:

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"Senator Edward Pangelinan, Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission and Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, the U.S. negotiator for the U.S.-Marianas Political Status talks, concluded two days of informal meetings in San Francisco today by jointly announcing that the next formal talks between the Marianas and the U.S., looking towards a political union of the Northern Marianas with the U.S. upon termination of the Trust Agreement, will take place in December.

After reviewing progress that had been made during the May-June 1973 negotiations, and the further work which has been accomplished subsequently by joint working sub-committees it was agreed the talks would open on December 6, 1973 on Saipan.

The agenda will include a review of some of the legal and constitutional questions left over from the last negotiating session, a further exchange on the future financial relationship between a commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and the United States Government, and a continuation of the discussion of the future disposition of public land now held in trust for the people by the TTPI Government, and future U.S. land requirements in the Marianas. Chairman Pangelinan and Ambassador Williams also agreed that a preliminary exchange of views on transition to self-government and the calling of a Marianas Constitutional Convention would be useful.

In assessing the record of the past ten months since the opening of the talks leading to a political union of the Northern Marianas and the U.S., Senator Pangelinan and Ambassador Williams expressed satisfaction with the solid accomplishment in the negotiations to date. Both also expressed confidence that further progress would be made at the December meeting toward a mutually acceptable agreement which would be submitted to the Congress of the United States, the Marianas District Legislature and to the people of the Northern Marianas for their approval in the form of a plebiscite."

Camb/Pangelinan

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UNCLAS STATE 003500
E.C. 11652: N/A
TAGS: REOP, TO
SUBJECT: MARIANAS NEGOTIATIONS

ACTION.....STATUS LNO
INFO.....D/PA
INFO.....DHC
INFO.....HC
INFO.....CONG OF MICRO
INFO.....MARIANAS DELEGATION
INFO.....SA/LA

ACTION

October 23

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY IN SAN FRANCISCO BY SENATOR PANGELINAN AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS.

QUOTE: SENATOR EDUARD PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND AMBASSADOR BRANWYN HAYDON WILLIAMS, THE U.S. NEGOTIATOR FOR THE U.S.-MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS TALKS, CONCLUDED TWO DAYS OF INFORMAL MEETINGS IN SAN FRANCISCO TODAY BY JOINTLY ANNOUNCING THAT THE NEXT FORMAL TALKS BETWEEN THE MARIANAS AND THE U.S., LOOKING TOWARDS A POLITICAL UNION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WITH THE U.S. UPON TERMINATION OF THE TRUST AGREEMENT, WILL TAKE PLACE IN DECEMBER.

AFTER REVIEWING PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE DURING THE MAY-JUNE 1973 NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE FURTHER WORK WHICH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SUBSEQUENTLY BY JOINT WORKING SUB-COMMITTEES IT HAS AGREED THE TALKS WOULD OPEN ON DECEMBER 6, 1973 ON SAIPAN.

THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF SOME OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS LEFT OVER FROM THE LAST NEGOTIATING SESSION, A FURTHER EXCHANGE ON THE FUTURE FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND A CONTINUATION OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LAND NOW HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE BY THE TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, AND FUTURE U.S. LAND REQUIREMENTS IN THE MARIANAS. CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS ALSO AGREED THAT A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON TRANSITION TO SELF-GOVERNMENT AND THE CALLING OF A MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WOULD BE USEFUL.

IN ASSESSING THE RECORD OF THE PAST TEN MONTHS SINCE THE OPENING OF THE TALKS LEADING TO A POLITICAL UNION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE U.S., SENATOR PANGELINAN AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE. BOTH ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT FURTHER PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE AT THE DECEMBER MEETING TOWARD A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS FOR THEIR APPROVAL IN THE FORM OF A PLEBISCITE. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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