

November 14, 1973

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MEMORANDUM TO MR. WILLENS AND MR. LAPIN

FROM: Peter Bewley

SUBJECT: Marianas/Some Information

C O N F I D E N T I A L

During a conversation yesterday with Grant Reynolds, the Assistant General Counsel of the Air Force for Installations and Logistics, I learned some facts that may be relevant to the conduct of negotiations with the United States. I have no way of determining the accuracy of these facts except by relying on Grant's position and my knowledge that he has been involved to some extent in the planning of the United States' position with regard to the military presence in the Marianas. Under no circumstances should the information that follows be disclosed in anyway to any United States Government representative.

I had called Grant to obtain information with regard to an interpretation of the applicability of a particular armed services procurement regulation to construction contractors. I disclosed to Grant that my question related to work that I was doing on the Marianas problem. In the course of the conversation,

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Grant, purely gratuitously, informed me that, to his knowledge, the military is re-evaluating its needs in the Marianas and that it is extremely uncertain as to whether its needs will encompass the substantial installations that have heretofore been proposed by the United States Government. Grant explained that the future of the size of the military establishment overall is currently of great concern. It is apparently felt that by the time a base in the Marianas is constructed, the U. S. military presence worldwide and in the Far East may be much smaller than it is now. The military is therefore questioning whether it can justify the proposed large expenditures in the Marianas, when, by the time those facilities are constructed, it may be impossible to utilize them fully, or indeed, to any significant extent.

Thus, my feeling is that the Marianas Political Status Commission may have a much stronger bargaining position, with regard to U. S. land requirements than would appear from the statements that I have been reading (e.g., Land Statement of Ambassador Williams, June 3, 1973).

PDB