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December 11, 1973

COMMENTS OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION REGARDINGS
THE UNITED STATES RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR
PHASE I PLANNING.

The Marianas Political Status Commission has reviewed with care the United States response dated December 9, 1973, to the Commission's proposal for Phase I planning which was set forth in working papers of August 29, and October 30, 1973. Although the Commission is pleased to finally have an official statement of the U.S. position on this critical subject, we are seriously disappointed in the U.S. response -- both as to the scope of the planning effort contemplated and the inadequate level of funding proposed. In these preliminary comments, the Commission will make certain general observations about the U.S. response, identify certain major deficiencies in the U.S. proposal, and offer a basis for further consideration of the Commission's planning proposals.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

1. To be candid, the Commission is disappointed that the United States does not yet understand the planning requirements which must be met if the Marianas are to become more than a stepchild in the American political family. There appears to be little awareness of the fact that past planning efforts in the Marianas were insufficient to begin with and now have little, if any, relevance to the pressing needs for overall planning before

events render all such efforts futile. Nor does the U.S. response reflect any deference to the Commission's strongly held views that TTPI and other Federal Government personnel have demonstrated neither the competence nor commitment necessary to undertake the sensitive and comprehensive planning necessary as the Marianas prepare for self-government.

2. The Commission regrets the fact that the U.S. response makes no serious effort to deal with the Commission's working papers of August 29 and October 30. The Commission expended considerable time and money on these studies, but neither is dignified by so much as a mention in the U.S. response. It would have been easy enough and cheaper for the Commission to propose much larger figures without any documentation for Phase I planning and begin negotiations from that point. That is not the way this Commission intends to do business. We hope the United States intends to approach this subject with the same kind of good faith and trust.

3. The United States response casts considerable doubt on the continued viability of the joint working group on economics and financial support. During the sessions of this working group, which the United States proposed during the last session of negotiations, there was a healthy exchange of professional views on the scope and funding of Phase I planning. Repeatedly the Commission's representatives were told -- as reflected in the jointly approved minutes of the meetings -- that there was no U.S. objection "on a technical basis" to the principal components of

the Commission's proposal for Phase I planning. It is clear now that these meetings were not as useful as we had hoped.

4. The Commission is surprised and disappointed that your response makes no attempt to present or justify the basis for your estimates of funding requirements. When we contrast this lack of documentation with the detailed justification for our proposal, the Commission cannot help but wonder whether we are discussing the same agenda item.

SPECIFIC DEFICIENCIES

1. The Commission believes that the United States response unnecessarily defers the beginning of Phase I planning. We see no reason why funds cannot be made available at the conclusion of this session of negotiations and before any final status agreement is signed by the parties. There is a pressing and immediate need for such planning which cannot await the conclusion of the detailed discussions which obviously will be required before a status agreement is signed. Surely at the conclusion of this session we can hope for sufficient evidence of progress to assure the U.S. Delegation and the Congress that the Commission and the people of the Marianas are serious in their desire to become part of the United States.

2. Perhaps most disappointing is your omission of any meaningful physical planning effort. The fragility of our islands

and the great changes which are in the offing demand that we control our physical environment to the maximum degree possible. If we do not have adequate physical planning as a fundamental element of Phase I, we fear that our islands will develop into the combination luxury hotel/slum complexes which characterize so many tourist resort areas, including most U.S. Territories. We have enumerated on many occasions the deficiencies of the existing physical plans for the Marianas, and we are firm in our conviction that physical planning must be a component in Phase I planning.

3. The Commission fails to understand the lack of U.S. sensitivity to the feelings of the Marianas people about a prompt and fair disposition of land problems. The public land cadaster and adjudication program which you propose leaves untouched the problems of private land. We are sure that you must know that due to years of neglect by the Trust Territory administration, the need for a private land cadaster and adjudication program is in many ways more serious and more pressing than the need for a public land program.

4. While the terminology of the U.S. proposal makes it difficult for us to compare your estimates of funding requirements for particular tasks with our estimates, it appears that you have judged the requirements for political status education, status plebiscite, constitutional convention and legal services, constitutional referendum, and government reorganization and planning to be less than one-third of our estimates. Our own studies can only

lead us to believe that you have little appreciation of the complexity and importance of these activities. Neither the Commission nor the United States should allow future generations to berate us for doing an inadequate job at such a critical time in Marianas history.

5. Finally, while the Commission recognizes the legitimate concern of the United States to participate in our planning efforts, we also recognize that future self government is dependent on our ability to control the planning for our future. Your proposed Joint Commission and Joint Secretariat incorporate a degree of U.S. participation well beyond the degree we regard to be consistent with the authority we seek to conduct local affairs in the Marianas.

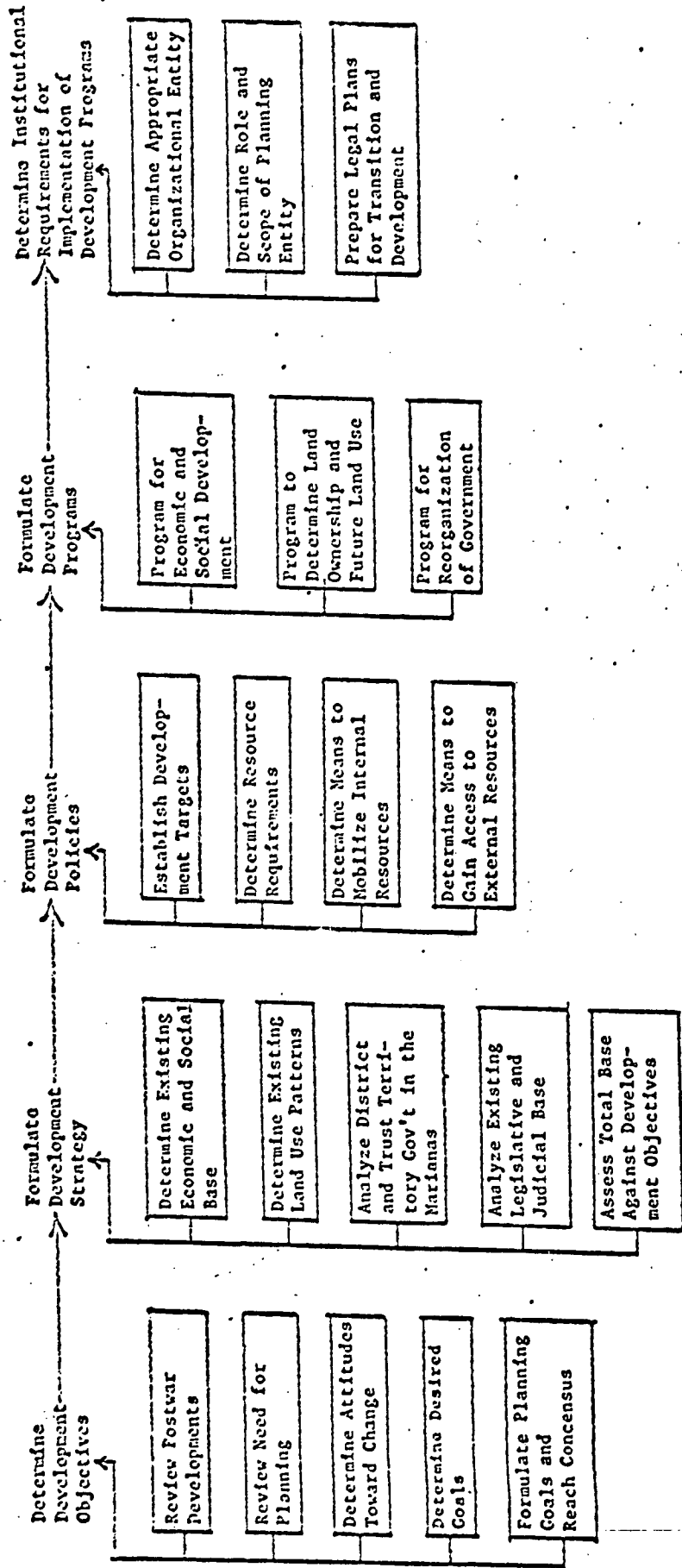
FURTHER DISCUSSION

Under the circumstances the Commission has no alternative but to return to the Phase I planning program described in its working papers of August 29 and October 30. You have before you lists of the specific projects included in the overall program and their estimated costs. Detailed descriptions of the projects and justifications for their costs are contained in the working papers. The Commission desires to review each particular project with the entire U.S. Delegation. With respect to each project we wish to know:

- 1). Is the project included in the U.S. proposal?
- 2). If not, why has it been omitted?
- 3). If the project is included but at a lower cost, what is the U.S. justification for the reduction in cost estimates?

This process may be tedious.. It may be undignified. But the Commission believes that it is the only way for the two delegations to communicate directly on the subject of Phase I planning and, hopefully, to reach specific agreements on this subject during this session of negotiations.

Figure 1.
MARIANA ISLANDS
SCHEMATIC WORK PROGRAM FOR PREPARING
7-YEAR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN



BUDGET ESTIMATES
 MARIANA ISLANDS (PHASE I)
 TRANSITION PLANNING

1. Planning Coordination

Staff	\$ 90,000
Travel	5,000
Per Diem	14,000
Miscellaneous	<u>2,500</u>

\$ 111,500

2. Economic and Social Planning

Staff	137,840
Consultants	18,000
Travel	15,000
Per Diem	25,200
Miscellaneous	<u>5,000</u>

201,040

3. Government Reorganization Planning

Staff	23,280
Consultants	36,000
Travel	10,000
Per Diem	5,600
Miscellaneous	<u>1,000</u>

75,880

4. Physical Planning

Staff:	
1. Land Use	255,000
2. Access and Circulation	230,000
3. Public Facilities	185,500
4. Public Utilities	340,000
5. Regulatory and Ad- ministrative	<u>67,500</u>

1,078,000

Travel	61,950
Per Diem	32,625
Communications	12,825
Photography and Printing	<u>21,650</u>

1,207,050

027521

5. <u>Legal Planning</u>			\$ 500,000
6. <u>Cadastral Survey</u>			
Field Surveys:			
1. Saipan	\$397,000		
2. Rota	278,000		
3. Tinian	<u>16,000</u>		
		\$673,000	
Aerial Mapping		50,000	
Recording and Registration		500,000	
Disposition of Land Disputes		560,000	
Land Commission Management		350,000	
Travel and Per Diem for Expatriates		<u>333,000</u>	
			<u>2,466,000</u>
			\$4,561,470

Notes:

1. Staff and consultant cost estimates include salaries and administrative overhead. Administrative overhead is computed at 100 percent of estimated staff salaries and 50 percent of estimated consultant fees.
2. Per Diem estimates include overseas allowances for long term expatriate staff.
3. Estimates of miscellaneous expenses include relocation allowances (movement and storage of household effects, etc.) for long term expatriate staff.

PLANNING COSTS OF THE GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION PROGRAM

	<u>Low Estimate</u>	<u>High Estimate</u>
<u>Planning and Preparation for Implementation</u>		
1. Legal Support for Economic, Social, and Physical Planning	\$ 36,300	\$ 36,300
2. Research on the Application of Federal Laws	170,680	170,680
3. Research on Executive Branch Reorganization	75,880 ^{b/}	75,880 ^{b/}
4. Research on Legislative and Judicial Reorganization	54,820	54,820
5. Research on Establishing an Interim Government	46,750	46,750
6. Research on Political Education	7,770	7,770
7. Political Education	32,400	32,400
8. Research on Conducting a Plebiscite	2,520	2,520
9. Research Preparing for a Constitutional Convention	47,830	47,830
	<u>Subtotal:</u>	<u>\$474,950</u>
B. <u>Implementation</u>		
1. Political Education (continued)	\$ 55,940	\$ 80,270 ^{a/}
2. (Possible) Support for a Joint Commission on the Applicability of Federal Laws	-	30,240 ^{a/}
3. Holding a Plebiscite	12,000	12,000
4. Election for Representatives to the Constitutional Convention	12,000	12,000 ^{a/}
5. The Constitutional Convention	80,590	169,920 ^{a/}
6. Referendum on the Constitution	12,000	12,000
7. Participation in Considerations by the U.S. Congress and the United Nations	18,940	18,940
8. (Possible) Reconvening the Convention and Holding Another Referendum	0	29,210 ^{a/}
9. Drafting on Initial Legislative Program	76,900	76,900
10. Election of the Officials in the New Government	12,000	12,000
	<u>Subtotal:</u>	<u>\$280,370</u>
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$928,430</u>

^{a/} Except for the projects designated by this footnote, only one cost is estimated for each project. The reasons for the range of estimates are discussed in the text at pp. 24-25.

^{b/} This is the same as the "Government Reorganization Planning" 027523 of 1958, Proposed Planning Program, pp. 53-57.