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MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION

December 15, 1973

REVISED PROPOSAL OF MARIANAS  
POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION  
FOR PHASE I PLANNING

The Marianas Political Status Commission has given careful consideration to the views expressed by the U.S. Delegation regarding the Commission's proposal for Phase I planning. We believe that the full and frank exchange of views during our meetings on Wednesday, December 12, was in the best tradition of these negotiations. As the U.S. Delegation knows Phase I planning is a matter on which all 15 members of the Commission have deep convictions -- not only because of the desperate need for such planning but also because of its symbolic importance as tangible evidence of United States friendship and support for the Marianas. The Commission is submitting this revised proposal in the spirit of compromise which is essential if these negotiations are ever to come to a satisfactory conclusion. We will discuss our revised proposal in terms of its timing, substance (including levels of funding), and organization.

#### TIMING

You have asked for our views on the question of timing of Phase I. The Commission's position on timing is very simple: we want Phase I planning to go forward as soon as humanly possible. We recognize, however, the practical considerations underlying the U.S. position that funding of Phase I depends upon congressional approval which will be difficult to obtain until at least the major provisions of the status agreement have been decided upon.

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To some extent, the Commission's concerns about timing have been met by the U.S. proposal for an Ad Hoc Committee to begin meeting promptly after this session to prepare for implementation of Phase I planning. If this group is funded appropriately and if its recommendations are respected by both delegations, then the Commission believes that it can be a useful instrument to expedite the beginning of Phase I.

The Commission's remaining reservation on the subject of timing is caused by our uncertainty as to when the formal status agreement will be signed by the parties. We share Ambassador Williams' hope that these negotiations can be completed next year. Even if this proves to be true, we do not know whether it will be May, September or December. What the Commission basically wants is an assurance from the U.S. Delegation that it will not wait until "every <sup>d</sup> is crossed and every <sup>i</sup> is dotted" before seeking Phase I funding from the U.S. Congress. We believe that sufficient progress will be made at this session and the next one to justify a request for funding. The Commission would like the U.S. Delegation to share our confidence in these negotiations and agree to seeking funds for Phase I planning after the next session of negotiations.

#### SUBSTANCE AND LEVELS OF FUNDING

To provide some perspective on the following discussion, let us review where the two parties presently stand. The Commission's original Phase I proposal was for approximately

\$4.7 million, including \$2.4 for a cadastral program reaching both public and private land in the Marianas. The U.S. proposal is for \$2.455 million, including \$1.6 for a cadastral (and adjudication) program for public land in the Marianas. The principal differences between the two proposals are in three areas: (1) land cadastral program (difference of \$800,000); (2) physical planning (omitted from U.S. proposal but included in Commission proposal at level of \$1.2 million); and (3) government planning (difference of about \$400,000).\* With this in mind, let us reason together in search of a compromise.

A. Land Cadastral program

The Commission on many occasions has set forth its concern that private land problems not be overlooked. We have listened carefully to the U.S. Delegation's comments on the subject and we understand the reasons for the U.S. emphasis on public lands. The Commission appreciates the fact also that the United States has already sought \$1.6 million from the U.S. Congress for a cadastral (and adjudication) program based upon budget figures supplied by TTPI personnel. We welcome your assurance that the United States is committed to prompt

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\* This figure is arrived at by lumping the U.S. proposals for fiscal and revenue planning and relocation studies in with political studies and activities for a total of \$350,000. This compared with the Commission figure of \$750,000 set forth in its working paper of October 30, 1973.

completion of this program and that additional money will be sought if necessary.

The Commission is prepared to agree with the U.S. Phase I proposal regarding the land cadastral program in light of these assurances provided the U.S. Delegation will give us comparable assurances regarding the cadastral program for private lands. Specially, the Commission asks the U.S. Delegation to make the following commitments:

- 1) To ensure that the cadastral land program involving private land in the Marianas is targeted for completion by the TTPI at the same time as the public land effort (i.e. three years);
- 2) To ensure that the two programs involving public and private land are conducted in a coordinated way so as to avoid the waste involved, for example, in duplicative surveys of public and private lands;
- 3) To recognize that the timely and efficient resolution of these land problems will continue to be of concern to this Commission and other Marianan citizens and to agree that any major difficulties which arise during Phase I in this area are an appropriate subject for consideration by any Joint Secretariat and/or Joint Commission established to oversee Phase I;
- 4) To agree to consider in good faith any reasonable

2 / and documented request for additional funds from the Joint Secretariat or this Commission to deal with any future problems which may develop in the management of the land cadastral (and adjudication) programs involving both public and private lands.

B. Physical Planning

During our discussion of physical planning, there appeared to be agreement between the parties as to the need for physical planning but some difference of views as to its proper timing. Whereas the Commission believes that physical planning should be part of Phase I, the U.S. Delegation <sup>expressed</sup> ~~held~~ the position that such planning should be deferred until Phase II, after the new Government of the Marianas begins operations. In addition, both parties are anxious to avoid any duplication of previous planning efforts and to make certain that any physical planning is part of an integrated and coordinated planning program. The Commission makes these recommendations on physical planning as part of its revised Phase I proposal.

1) The Commission persists in its position that physical planning should be part of Phase I. We ask the U.S. Delegation to agree to this in principle. The Commission will not repeat here at length its views on this subject. It is enough to say that comprehensive physical planning, carefully building on all previous plans, is a necessary and realistic

component of a Phase I program designed to give the new Marinese Government a sound foundation for planned growth and development.

*Twice  
as the last  
planning*

2) The Commission requests the U.S. Delegation to agree tentatively at this time to including the amount of \$600,000 for physical planning in the budget for Phase I. The first expenditure from this sum would be a review of all previous plans, and such updating as seems technically appropriate so that they need not be duplicated by any new planning efforts.

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Further allocation of this sum should properly await agreement between the parties based upon technical discussions in the Ad Hoc Committee suggested in the U.S. proposal. The Commission agrees that no money for physical planning should be expended unless it is properly programmed and timed.

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3) The Commission requests the U.S. Delegation to consider such additional sums for physical planning as the Ad Hoc Committee, or subsequently the Joint Secretariat, recommends may be necessary. The Commission believes that its request for \$1.2 million is supportable, but recognizes the legitimate U.S. interest in satisfying itself fully before agreeing to any such expenditures. The Commission and its representatives will be glad to participate in a joint technical effort to fix an appropriate total sum for physical planning as part of Phase I.

C. Government Planning

The Commission has reconsidered its proposals in the area of Government Planning in <sup>light</sup> ~~length~~ of the views expressed

by the U.S. Delegation. As part of our revised Phase I proposal, the Commission makes the following recommendations.

1) The Commission is prepared to withdraw at this time its request for approximately \$200,000 to study the applicability of U.S. laws in the Marianas and to support a Joint Commission on this subject. The Commission continues to believe that such a joint effort would be appropriate during Phase I, but understands that the U.S. Delegation believes that this should be done during Phase II. We recommend that this question be discussed informally between the parties, either in the Ad Hoc Committee or the joint working group of lawyers, during the recess after this session of negotiations.

2) The Commission also will reevaluate several of its other requests relating to the Constitutional Convention, status plebescite, referendum, and approval by the U.S. Congress and United Nations. We are reassured by the U.S. Delegation's statement in this area and the flexibility suggested by the willingness to fund any extraordinary costs involved in the transition to a new status for the Marianas.

3) On the other hand, the Commission requests that the U.S. Delegation agree tentatively at this time to the amount of \$250,000 for government reorganization and legislative planning. As indicated by our comments last Wednesday, the Commission feels strongly that this amount is required to enable the Marianas to approach its new governmental responsibilities with intelligence and careful preparation. There is

*Shirley  
Ad Hoc*

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no conceptual difference between our delegations on this subject. We intend to make full use of all local resources. We welcome the offer of assistance from the talented and dedicated ranks of U.S. employees. (Indeed, we believe that one of the high priority tasks of the Ad Hoc Committee should be to identify particular kinds of federal experts who may be needed and to check as to their availability at some future date when they may be needed by the Joint Secretariat). But the Commission continues to believe that independent expertise both from the Marianas and outside, will be needed to deal with the numerous complicated and important issues with which we will be dealing in the months to come. The Commission recognized that the amount suggested (\$250,000) is tentative only and should be examined carefully within the Ad Hoc Committee and revised, if necessary, either upward or downward.

#### ORGANIZATION

The Commission appreciates the suggestions of the U.S. Delegation regarding the organization of the Phase I effort. We recognize that these suggestions are preliminary only and will be examined in more detail by the Ad Hoc Committee. Although the Commission has many unresolved questions regarding the U.S. proposals, we are willing to let most of these matters of detail and implementation be considered initially by the Ad Hoc Committee. On the whole, we believe that the U.S.

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proposal is a very constructive one. The Commission does have these general comments for presentation at this time:

1) With respect to the Joint Commission proposed by the U.S. Delegation, we welcome the reassurances of the U.S. Delegation that this group is not intended to be a policy-making body which will review the substance of economic, social, physical or other plans produced under the auspices of the Joint Secretariat. We hope it will be made clear that the Joint Commission is not a vote-taking body, that it can meet at the request of either Co-Chairman, and that its members remain responsible to their respective delegations.

2) Regarding the Joint Secretariat, the Commission has these preliminary thoughts. We believe that both the Director and Deputy Director should be Marianas citizens, and suggest that the other two slots be filled by persons <sup>approved</sup> ~~appointed~~ by the U.S. Delegation. The job of liason with the TTPI and federal agencies would be assigned to a person <sup>approved</sup> ~~appointed~~ by the U.S. Delegation whereas liason with Marianas people and agencies will be handled by either the Director or Deputy Director. The Commission also is concerned that the employees of the Joint Secretariat be compensated on a fully competitive basis so that the best people can be hired.

3) As to the Ad Hoc Committee, the Commission is generally prepared to delegate to this group the job of working on the implementation of Phase I (Transition) and reporting

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Not present  
for the reasons

back to the two delegations before the next session. In order to support the <sup>Managers</sup> Commission's efforts in this regard, we request the U.S. if possible to fund the Commission in the approximate amount of \$45,000, or such amount as may be necessary to carry out the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

CONCLUSION

The Commission's revised proposal involves an increase of \$845,000 over the U.S. proposal. All the Commission's figures are tentative and subject to reexamination. This proposal leaves any additional expenditures, e.g. for further physical planning, open for consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee or the Joint Secretariat. The Commission regards this revised proposal as a fair compromise. If the U.S. Delegation agrees, the Commission is prepared to appoint its representatives to the Ad Hoc Committee.

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