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Preliminary Comments on MPSC Paper on the Return of Public Lands

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I. Introduction

- Grateful for views expressed in MPSC paper which U. S. delegation has found helpful in many respects.
- Need to study paper at greater length, particularly those parts that impinge upon or articulate forthcoming military land discussions on the agenda.
- Meanwhile, however, prepared to make a very few preliminary remarks based on rather hurried look at the paper.

II. Nature of U. S. Land Policy Statement

- Perhaps useful in first instance to say to MPSC what has already been told to representatives of the Congress of Micronesia in discussions last month regarding new U. S. land policy. (Copies of minutes of land discussions will be available in a week or so as soon as printed.)
- Policy is not a position announced by U. S. delegation. Rather it is a formal statement of U. S. Government policy approved by the Secretary of the Interior and promulgated/ as an official act of the administering authority.
two weeks before status talks
- It is not, in other words, a subject for negotiation, though members of U. S. delegation only too happy to answer questions about its interpretation.
- Implementation of that policy as stated therein is responsibility of Interior and Trust Territory Administration, not U. S. delegation; but we are, of course, willing to be as helpful as possible in getting information for MPSC from implementing authorities. No reason, however, why MPSC can't go directly to those authorities, as we have noted they are already doing.
- Implementation of policy will go forward regardless of course of these negotiations, though we as always happy to hear views of MPSC on the subject.

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items remain open or flexible by definition, on the other hand, and where they involve or impinge on subjects covered in these discussions, they will of course be subject for consideration here.

III. Preliminary Comments on Individual Items

A - P. 3 - Reference to military retention land, would prefer to defer entire discussion of military retention land until we get to military land item on agenda.

- Meanwhile should say for record, however, that military retention land is not included in the definition of public land included in the policy statement. Military retention land peculiar to Marianas situation, was under discussion with MPSC last May-June and is still very much an item for further discussion between the two delegations.

B - P. 3 - Return of public land used by TT Administration

- Policy on this is clear and unequivocal.
- Matter is not subject to negotiation.
- Anticipate of course that new government of Marianas will fall heir to property of TT Administration with change in Marianas status, but modalities of this need to be discussed under transition.

C - P. 4 - Approval of future CIP on public land by Marianas people.

- Assume "Marianas people" means MPSC for all practical purposes.
- Policy Statement seems clear on/future CIP. However, U. S. delegation members willing to consider this ^{MPSC Proposal} along with other proposals re use of public land in interim period and will advise after study of MPSC paper.
- Note meanwhile new statement by HICOM on leases.

D - P. 4 - Return of public land as "hostage to final agreement on military land"

- Will consider further under military land discussion item.
- Meanwhile can say no "hostage" involved. Public land will be returned promptly so long as safeguard #5 is observed, as you surmised.

E.-P. 4 - Industrial survey and private land

- Will have paper on this for MPSC this afternoon.
- Surveys will not delay return of public land.

F.-P. 5 - Non-profit corporation

- Matter which is in most respects up to Marianas as stated in policy
- Will be prepared discuss particular aspects of corporation organization and function after reviewing long MPSC paper.

G - P. 8 - Eminent Domain

- To be discussed under this item in agenda
- Note that Eminent Domain in policy refers to time between now and time new status becomes effective, but timing here in the Marianas needs careful consideration since there may be some special problems.

H - p. 9 - Assistance Support

- For later discussion after study of corporation paper - ~~thanks for paper which was helpful.~~