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TALKING POINTS ON TRANSITION

- Much of what we had considered important under the heading of Transition has been covered already in our discussion of transitional planning.

- All that apparently remains to be agreed under that topic is specific terms of reference for the joint Ad Hoc Committee.

-- We have a draft here and will pass it around.

-- Can agree to it here and now or do so later by a simple exchange of letters between the Chairmen.

-- But in latter case would like to have as many preliminary comments from you as possible.

- Several other items do remain, however, for consideration under this general heading of transition, some of which have already been hinted at.

- All seem to be related in one way or another to the question of timing, to which we have referred repeatedly on both sides of the table.

- Doubt if we can reach any precise meeting of the minds in hours remaining during this session, but believe if useful to highlight some of the problems so that people can be thinking further about them during forthcoming recess.

- When we talk of transition we are talking about a series of stages between now and the final establishment of a full-fledged Commonwealth of the Marianas within the American political family.

- There are several critical benchmarks along the way -

-- First is the time when our two delegations finally agree and an agreement is signed. We hope this will be sooner rather than later in the session.

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of alternate times you gave us in response to Ambassador Williams' earlier questions.

-- Next bench mark is time that agreement is finally approved by Marianas and United States.

--- A complicated process as we anticipated in our discussion of transitional planning.

--- A number of intervening actions, i.e., activating of interim Joint Commission and Joint Secretariat; Marianas study of government reorganization and internal governmental reshuffling; Constitutional Convention and referendum and plebiscite on future status.

--- On United States side final Executive Branch clearance and submission to U.S. Congress.

--- U.S. explanations on U.N. side.

--- All this could take months if not years. Our present guess is anywhere from 18 months to two years.

-- Next bench mark is final approval.

--- Marianas will have spoken definitely.

--- U.S. President - as we have proposed - would have assessed situation and decided when parts of new status agreement (Covenant) would be implemented.

--- See our draft of Article VIII which sets out four more time frames (copies distributed)

---- First is action to be taken on signature of agreement
(Phase I)

----- Second is what can be put into effect immediately on final approval of agreement (Articles II, III, etc. - Section 801).

----- Third is provisions which will
new Marianas Government
determined by U.S. President on
basis of situation at the time.

----- Fourth is provisions to become effectian
of trusteeship - which may be very soon thereafter or,
could be only after many years depending on what happens
to other districts of TTPI. (Trusteeship must end for
all districts of TTPI simultaneously).

- All of this is terribly important in terms of when things begin to happen, like when U.S. federal laws become effective and when U.S. financial assistance programs begin.

- As said in May-June, United States has no problem with idea of administering Marianas as part of United States even while trusteeship continuing and perfectly prepared to separate Marianas administratively from the other islands of the TTPI whenever this seems desirable. (Could be done tomorrow by Secretarial Order).

- But must do so when this seems most desirable from both United States and Marianas point of view.

- Therefore need your opinion on this as soon as possible.

- Many sticky problems involved.

-- Political - Some have said COM must speak on status for all six districts - U.S. has said it need not - Can amend Secretarial Order on COM if necessary to correct any technical deficiencies.

This U.S. ready as necessary to !

completely from rest of TTPI in administration but
if this is necessary.

time in our view would be immediately after new status agreement
has been approved on both sides and U.S. Congress has passed
necessary implementing legislation.

could do this earlier - need your views.

What can we do by Executive Order before trusteeship terminated.

-- Simple answer is to put into effect all arrangements except:

--- Citizenship

--- Final divorce from TTPI.

--- Commonwealth under U.S. sovereignty.

--- Period could be long or short before termination of trusteeship.

-- Want Marianas to enjoy all benefits just as soon as possible.

- May be misgivings here we need to know about.

-- Have agreed to study and do as much as possible to correct
dislocations from move of capital.

-- Can be done early in transition process.

-- But need to know MPSC views.

- Summary of U.S. views on timetable

- Pre-signature of agreement

- Ad Hoc Committee on Phase I

- Preliminary work on funding of Phase I.

Step 1 - Signature of Agreement

- Phase I begins

- U.S. Congress funds Phase I

- Joint Commission and Secretariat go to work.
- Agreement to Marianas District Legislature.
 - Political Education effort on terms of Status Agreement
 - Plebiscite
 - U.S. executive and Congressional Approval
 - Preparations for Constitutional Convention, Legal Studies, etc.
 - Constitutional Convention
 - Constitutional Referendum
 - Studies of necessary reorganization of government.

Step 2 - Approval of Status Agreement

- Several sections become automatically effective (See Article VIII)

Step 3 - Other articles put into effect as soon as new government officially established (See Article VIII).

- Administrative separation from TTPI - if not done earlier.
- Joint Committee on Laws goes to work.
- On first July 1st - tax rebates start
- In effect new Government operating in every respect as it would in post trusteeship period except for citizenship, property rights and Commonwealth.

Step 4 - End of Trusteeship