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ROUTINE

STATUS LNO:  
MVTRENT 12/20/73

SECSTATE WASHINGTON, DC  
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA  
WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC  
JCS WASHINGTON DC  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
ROUTINE

FROM STATUS LNO 215

PASS INTERIOR FOR OMSN INFO  
PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA INFO  
COMTWELVE FOR AMB WILLIAMS  
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC  
STATE FOR EA/ANP, IO/UNP  
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA, CSAF FOR PR XO  
PASS JUSTICE FOR MARCUSE (OLC)  
USUN FOR AMB WHITE  
AMEMBASSIES CANBERRA, MANILA, TOKYO, WELLINGTON FOR POL

SUBJECT: MARIANAS STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING IS CLOSING PLENARY STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS AT  
MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS DECEMBER 19, 1973: BEGIN  
TEXT

LNO

03-027782

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CLOSING PLENARY STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS  
AT  
MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

December 19, 1973

Senator Pangelinan and Members of the Marianas Political Status

Commission:

In bringing to a close the third session of the Marianas political status negotiations, we can take justifiable pride in the results of our past two weeks together. The members of the two delegations have worked hard and effectively together. You gentlemen on the Marianas Political Status Commission have my delegation's admiration for the concentrated effort you have been putting into the historic work in which you are both engaged. Your willingness to spend long hours away from your families and the other normal concerns of daily life in order to take up this work reflects your recognition of its importance to present and succeeding generations in the Marianas and your determination that it be well done.

Like previous negotiating sessions, this one has advanced us significantly nearer the attainment of our joint goal of a Status Agreement which will assure the people of the Marianas a secure place in the American political system under conditions affording them maximum responsibility for their own self-government and the fullest expression of their unique cultural heritage, a heritage which has enriched and will continue to enrich the larger American family.

The detailed Joint Communique which Senator Pangelinan and I are signing here this afternoon accurately reflects the extensive ground our delegations have covered in this session and the further preliminary agreements we have reached. This session brought an essential expansion of some of our understandings of last spring and has paved the way for further detailed discussions of specific issues to be undertaken by working groups from the delegations during the recess in the talks and by the full delegations at their next session.

The major accomplishments of this third session have been (1) a number of important understandings on complex constitutional, legal and fiscal matters -- including citizenship and nationality, the applicability of federal law, the protection of the right of local self-government, and customs and internal revenue; (2) agreement to establish forthwith an Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee to prepare a detailed work plan, timetable, organizational structure, and budget for transition planning, in recognition of the critical importance of such advance planning to ensure the orderly assumption of responsibility by a new government of the Marianas following the adoption of a local constitution; (3) an examination of the pace and direction in which the economy of the Marianas is likely to develop and the opportunity this presented for the U. S. to present a specific proposal of U. S. financial assistance during the first five years following the installation of your new government-- a proposal which is, I believe, commensurate

with your requirements and relevant to your principal economic goals of a steadily rising standard of living for your people and ultimate self-sufficiency; and (4) an exploration of such questions relating to land in the Marianas as the recent U. S. policy decision to return public land to local control and the related intensified land cadaster program; and U. S. land needs in these islands.

On the latter point, the U. S. appreciates your understanding of its minimal military land requirements and your general agreement to accommodate them. This is a reflection of your previously stated belief that the Marianas should contribute appropriately to the common responsibility to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in the Pacific. During the present session we have reached a fairly extensive understanding on how the land needs in question can be satisfied. I have no doubt that through further discussion in the months to come we can readily reach final agreement on this matter of importance to us both.

Before leaving the topic of land, I welcome this opportunity to reaffirm publicly the position which the U. S. stated to you during this session regarding private land rights on Tinian. Under the U. S. proposal the southern one-third of the island, outside the safety arc around San Jose Village, would be privately owned or in the public domain.

Although the present session has accomplished a great deal -- perhaps even more than our delegations had hoped -- we still have a considerable amount of work ahead of us, much of it of a technical nature.

The legal and economic working groups from the delegations to which I referred will resume their discussions early in the new year. Most important, the Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee which we have agreed to set up to study transition will immediately undertake an intensive, detailed examination of ways in which the transition to a new government can best be expedited and facilitated so that it can make recommendations to the Chairmen of the two delegations by March 1.

Thus, while the next session of negotiations will require extensive preparation, we have well-established mechanisms for accomplishing it. In any case, our delegation looks forward to sitting across the table from you once again in a few months, when both sides feel that the way has been prepared adequately for further substantial forward movement.

As the members of the U. S. Delegation rejoin their families in the United States in this holy season, you and your loved ones and all the people of these islands will remain in our thoughts; we very much hope that you will experience again the joy and peace of Christmas and the renewal of strength and spirit which it brings.

My delegation has been truly grateful for the warmth of your hospitality and the continued signs of your friendship as we have labored together these past two weeks. We shall take away with us your greetings to the Marianas' many friends located in the U. S. Government and elsewhere in the United States. I shall, of course, be reporting to my principal and key members of the U. S. Congress on the continuing progress of our negotiations. I have no doubt that they will be gratified at the very hopeful outlook for our endeavors.