

January 20, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

SUBJECT: Meeting on Marianas with James Wilson and Others
at the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations

On the afternoon of January 17, Messrs. Willens, Carter, Leonard, and William Bozman (of Leonard Associates) met in the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations with a number of U.S. officials connected with the Marianas negotiations. These people were James Wilson, Captain William Crowe, Adrian deGraffenried, and Harmon Kirby (a Foreign Service Officer recently assigned to Williams' staff). The meeting lasted about one and a half hours.

Wilson opened by welcoming us and saying that he hoped that we would feel free to meet informally with government officials and to seek their assistance. Willens noted that Adrian deGraffenried and others had already been very helpful in providing assistance.

Wilson then raised the question of the U.N. Visiting Mission. It was scheduled to come to Washington the next week and then would be in the Trust Territory from February 2 until the first week in March. The Mission's charter is very broad. Moreover, the four-man membership includes a Russian representative. A Chinese delegate at the U.N. will stop over in the Trust Territory during the Mission's visit; the Chinese delegate

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will apparently make his own report.

The U.N. Secretariat had contacted the U.S. government to inquire if the Marianas Political Status Commission would object to the U.N. group meeting with the Marianas advisers who are in Washington. Wilson had just heard this morning that Mr. Pangelinan had said there were no objections. Would Willens and Leonard be interested in talking to them?

Willens asked Wilson for his opinion. Wilson said that past Visiting Missions had friendly memberships. But now there was a Russian member and a Chinese observer. Also, the Australians are not as friendly on the Trusteeship issue as before. As for his opinion, he simply ventured that the Trusteeship issue comes up each year in the U.N. and that it has had a very thorough airing each time. It was up to us what to do. Wilson added that the U.S. will be giving the U.N. Mission two days of briefings. This will include briefings on the Marianas which will be descriptive and objective.

Captain Crowe said that the U.N. Mission's first question will be how independent are the Marianas from the U.S.?

Willens raised the issue of the partial termination of the Trusteeship if the Marianas negotiations proceed much more rapidly than with the rest of the Trust Territory. Wilson replied that the U.S. position was that partial termination was not legal

under the present Trust Agreement. We could seek to rewrite the Agreement, but as Captain Crowe interjected, this would be politically impossible in the U.N.

Crowe said that a separate issue was whether the separate Marianas negotiations are legal. He expects the U.N. Mission will raise this question.

Willens and Leonard said they will defer for now any decision whether to meet with the U.N. group.

Wilson then reported on his recent trip through the Eastern Districts of the Trust Territory. He thought their views regarding Marianas separatism were very mixed. Truk was hostile, largely because of the influence of Amaraich and Nakayama [not sure?] In Ponape neither Congressmen nor Senators nor local leaders seemed excited one way or the other. The Marshalls had the same views as Ponape. Mr. Wilson did not visit Palau and Yap.

Willens then inquired how the U.S. thought the U.S.-Marianas negotiations should proceed. He noted that dealing with a 15-man Marianas Political Status Commission would require much advance preparation. He suggested very tentatively one idea: In the near future, the Marianas would try to define their views on the political relationship and to introduce these. On other issues -- e.g., finances, land -- the U.S. might take the initiative since it is more familiar with some of the details. In

advance of the working sessions or when they start, both sides might exchange working papers.

Wilson offered the general proposition that there would be very little progress if there were only formal delegation meetings. He thought it possible to have considerable advance consultation between the two sides. There could also be informal working groups which would be followed probably by plenary sessions for the record.

Crowe recalled the experience with the Joint Status Commission where both sides met in working groups and exchanged working papers and drafts.

Willens noted that this might be acceptable for drafting documents. However, the problem was to organize and proceed through the major substantive issues in some orderly and quick way.

Crowe suggested that Messrs. Pangelinan and Santos might come to Washington or to San Francisco ahead of time. Much of the work could be done there. Willens thought this was a possibility, but that Messrs. Pangelinan and Santos and the rest of the Commission would have to be consulted on possible approaches. In any case, both sides would need to move informally.

Willens said that it would be important to have fairly detailed U.S. proposals during or by the end of the working session. Wilson thought this possible. He said the U.S. might be able to put the whole package on the table. Leonard queried

whether this would include detailed military requirements, especially for Tinian.

Wilson and Crowe then became more forthcoming. They said that the U.S. had planned to give a detailed package early in the game. However, there were some uncertainties, some variables, especially regarding military requirements; the U.S. would tell what it knew. This would hopefully even include a broad estimate of the economic impact of the military plans.

At this point, the meeting began to discuss specific informational needs. Leonard asked whether the U.S. would provide a "master plan" of Tinian. Crowe said he was not sure what a "master" plan is, but the U.S. package will include maps showing the proposed location of villages, road, and infrastructure. This will be provided quickly.

Leonard then noted that, at the last negotiating round, a number of questions had been raised. He would like to obtain an inventory of U.S. programs tied to each political alternative. Wilson said that they will provide what they have. DeGraffenried volunteered to help here.

Willens then noted that we will continue to pursue the questions asked at the last session. We will especially push on the more important. Leonard emphasized the need for information about Tinian.

Wilson said that Congressional problems may slow progress. This would be especially true with respect to deciding which U.S. programs would still be in effect in the Marianas.

Barry Carter *sc*

cc: Howard Willens
Jap Lapin