

February 27, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FILE

Subject: Transition -- Ad Hoc Committee -- Government Planning --
Conversation with Sander Vanocur

At the suggestion of a friend at Surrey, Karasik & Morse, I called Sander Vanocur today about government planning in the Marianas. Vanocur is connected, though exactly how I am not sure, with the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions.

Vanocur knew nothing about the negotiations. I gave him a brief description of the history of the negotiations and of the work of and composition of the Ad Hoc Committee. He told me that he thought that the Center would be very interested in the government planning work, and that Rex Tugwell, though in his 80's, would be an excellent source of assistance, especially in view of his experience as Governor of Puerto Rico.

Vanocur asked me how the funding of the project would be handled. He was concerned that if the executive branch controlled the funding, organizations like the Center or Brookings would be excluded from the project for political reasons. I told him that it was anticipated that representatives of the Marianas would control the government planning projects.

I stressed to Vanocur that the immediate problem was to define the government planning tasks and to assess the manpower requirements and the costs of completing those tasks. I told him that we needed the views of experts on these questions -- that, indeed, we had contacted other institutions with this request -- but that we could not now say who would actually do the planning work or exactly how the person or organization would be chosen. Vanocur said he understood this, and thought that the Center might be interested in providing answers to our immediate questions on this basis.

Vanocur asked if he could bring these problems to the attention of Kermit Gordon of Brookings, and Terry Sanford at Duke, as well as representatives of the Center, and I said he could.

I agreed to have some information delivered to Vanocur today at Gordon's office at Brookings, and he said he will call me at the beginning of next week to report on his progress.

During the discussion Vanocur indicated he knew Bob Six [?] of Continental Airlines, and said that Continental viewed the Marianas as a major tourist area. I confirmed that Continental did seem to be interested in the Marianas, and said that I understood that they have a hotel there now.

Michael S. Helfer

cc: Howard Willens
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