

Marianas

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May 15, 1974

Memorandum to: Ambassador Williams

From: Mary Vance Trent *MVT*

Subject: Constitutional Convention Delegates
from the Marianas

I talked this morning with Marianas Public Affairs Officer David Maratita on the above subject and the information in this memorandum is based on that conversation.

Midnight last night was the deadline for filing for ConCon delegates. The following have filed for the four districts into which the Marianas is divided for this purpose. One candidate is to be elected from each district:

District 1

Jose Cruz - this is Joe Cruz from Tinian, member of MPSC

Oscar Rasa - political activist who opposed Senator Borja in the 1972 election and who now edits I Gasetta

Isaac Calvo - Director of Education on Rota

District 2

Lorenzo Cabrera - Staff, Micronesian Legal Services

Juan Lizama - Office of Community Development

District 3

Dr. Camacho - staff of Doctor Torres Hospital

Sebio Ada - DISTAD's brother

Louis Limes - District Education

David Maratita - District Public Affairs Officer

District 4

Joaquin (Mitch) Pangelinan - MFSC and
staff of Peace Corps

Alfonso C. Rasa - brother of Oscar - Office of
Public Defender

Maria Paz Younis - Marianas Variety - wife of
Ahbed Younis

Deadline for the selection of the two traditional leaders provided for in the ConCon Act comes later (June 30). Selection of these officers is a special problem in the Marianas, particularly because of the requirement in the ConCon Act that the ones selected should be "recognized traditional leaders." According to Maratita, the situation may resolve itself here into one to be appointed by the DISTAD and one by the MDL. However, this may not be acceptable to the Carolinians who assert that they have recognized clans and therefore recognized leaders. But such leaders, not having surfaced in context of current government, may not be accepted as "recognized traditional leaders." Maratita says he does not know what the DISTAD has in mind as a solution to this problem. What is at stake is more a matter of prestige than practicality since the traditional leaders are observers only and have no vote.

Mary Vance Trent
Status Liaison Officer

Note: In accordance with the law, candidates have filed without party labels. We know, however, that the Popular Party slate is: Cruz, Cabrera, Camacho and Pangelinan.

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