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RESPONSE OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL
STATUS COMMISSION TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY
THE U.S. DELEGATION REGARDING LAND ISSUES

In response to the request of the U.S. Delegation, the Marianas Political Status Commission will try to respond to the questions presented by the U.S. Delegation in this morning's session regarding land issues. Limitations of time have prevented the Commission from being as fully responsive as it would have liked.

1(a). With regard to U.S. non-military requirements, the Commission is prepared to continue the existing lease for the U.S. Post Office after the new Marianas Government is established. So far as the Coast Guard is concerned, we are not prepared at this time to make a similar commitment. As the U.S. Delegation knows, this is a very valuable piece of property. It would assist us in studying the question further to know (1) whether a full range of Coast Guard services will be made available in the Marianas, and if so, when; and (2) why the full acreage is needed in view of the termination of LORAN "A" operations in December 1977.

1(b). With regard to Section 703(a) of Article VII of the U.S. draft Covenant, we believe that this provision is related to our general request that procedures be explored which involve the Commonwealth Government in the process of land acquisition by the U.S. Government in the Marianas. The Commission recommends that this be referred to the Joint Drafting Committee.

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2. (a) The Commission is prepared to offer the U. S. a 50 year lease automatically renewable for another 50 years at U. S. option.

(b) The Commission is not willing to consider a single, lump sum payment for that lease, with no further payments in the event a renewal option is exercised. A question in return: Would the United States consider a lump sum payment for the first 50 years, and a second lump sum for the second 50 years in the event the option was exercised, assuming that a fair mechanism for determining the amount of the second payment was agreed to by the parties and it was made clear that continued United States use of the land for the full 100 years, if desired, would be uninterrupted.

(c) The Commission is favorably inclined towards the request that the U.S. Government be able to dispose freely of federally financed improvements under a lease arrangement. We will defer a final answer until we have learned more about prevailing practices in this regard.

(d) The Commission is not prepared to give the U. S. Delegation an indication of what it would consider to be a fair price for the entire amount of land needed for military purposes in the Marianas.

3. Yes, the Commission is agreeable to referring to the Joint Drafting Committee the question of safeguards in the possible

exercise of eminent domain by the federal government.

4. The Commission is prepared to refer the land alienation issue to the Joint Drafting Committee to try to resolve the differences between the drafts.