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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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In reply refer to:  
1-5865/74  
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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Ambassador Williams Debrief of Fourth Round of Marianas Negotiations

Participants:

Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations

President's Personal Representative for  
Micronesian Status Negotiations - Ambassador F. Haydn Williams  
Deputy Representative for Micronesian  
Status Negotiations - Mr. James Wilson

Department of Defense

Deputy Secretary of Defense - William P. Clements, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA) - Robert Ellsworth  
Assistant for TTPI of the Pacific - Captain Edward C. Whelan, Jr.

Time: 1415-1450, 18 June 1974

Place: Deputy Secretary Clement's Office, Pentagon, Washington, DC

1. Results of Marianas IV. After opening courtesies, Ambassador Williams reviewed the highlights of the successful Round Four of the Marianas political status talks held on Saipan 15-31 May. However, he emphasized that two difficult tasks remain to be worked out before the next, and probably final, round of negotiations. The first task is redrafting the Commonwealth agreement to achieve mutually satisfactory language. This work is to be done this summer by a senior group of lawyers with Mr. James Wilson, the Ambassador's Deputy, chairing the US team. Secondly, a number of details concerning land use also must be agreed upon this summer. Ambassador Williams reported that the Marianas Political Status Commission had decided to satisfy all US land requirements on Farallon de Medenilla, Saipan and Tinian. He indicated that there was some disappointment on Tinian since the people would not be relocated to a new village, the military no longer requiring such a move. In summary,

Ambassador Williams reported that he had achieved agreement on all the land the military had asked for.

2. US-Marianas Land Committee. At this point, DepSecDef raised the question of how this land was to be acquired. Ambassador Williams explained that he had agreed to set up a US-Marianas Land Committee to work out jointly the various issues involved in acquiring the land and the early construction of a multi-service base on Tinian. Mr. James Wilson also would chair the US participants in this committee work, but a Deputy Chairman would be assigned to supervise the day-to-day deliberations. Ambassador Williams indicated that he would be asking for two members from the Department of Defense, plus advisors from related DOD commands or activities such as Commander in Chief, US Air Force, Pacific and Officer-in-Charge of Construction (Navy), Guam. In response to Secretary Clements question, Ambassador Williams said the committee would begin its work in mid-July. In a discussion of the management relationships regarding the Tinian base development, DepSecDef asked for a review of the US Air Force as DOD executive agent.

NOTE: A review of the assignment of Air Force as executive agent for Tinian is being forwarded separately.

3. Lease versus Purchase of Military Land. Ambassador Williams next reviewed the difficult issue of purchasing the land rather than leasing it as the Marianas delegation insisted, and stated that the US position was to purchase the land. DepSecDef emphatically underscored that the land should be purchased. Ambassador Williams reported the Marianas Political Status Commission's (MPSC) unyielding position on leasing the land for 50 years with an automatic 50 year renewal option. A discussion of eminent domain authority and the adequacy of the counsel employed by the MPSC then ensued.

4. Additional Land Issues. The other questions on land acquisition and use to be addressed by the joint land committee were briefly described by Ambassador Williams. He highlighted the problems involved in agreeing upon a reasonable land valuation, the elevated expectations (\$) of the MPSC, and relying upon an appraiser. Both DepSecDef and Mr. Ellsworth strongly cautioned against reliance on an appraiser. Ambassador Williams also mentioned the objectives of developing joint use agreements for the Tinian harbor and airfield, and, in his view, to lease back apparently unused areas on the base to avoid the criticism which the military on Guam receives.

5. Saipan Memorial Park Proposal. In response to Ambassador Williams' comment that Defense and Interior had quite a challenge ahead of them in developing a memorial park on military retention land in Saipan, DepSecDef retorted that the challenge was State's and Interior's, not Defense. When Ambassador Williams suggested that the land for the park

would belong to DOD, DepSecDef agreed and offered to let Interior use it for a very nominal sum. Also discussed was the Interior Department's proposal to develop a master plan for the park which interested departments could address and determine what assistance could be provided. DepSecDef emphasized that this park wasn't expected to be a big money project - at least not as far as DOD was concerned. Ambassador Williams discussed the extensive Japanese memorializing of World War II casualties in Micronesia and indicated that aside from his recent efforts, very little had been done in this area by the United States.

6. Status of Micronesian Negotiations. Ambassador Williams then briefly reviewed recent informal developments in the negotiations with the remaining five districts of Micronesia, pointing out that Defense interests were still protected, but that US responsibilities for international affairs were being questioned. He also mentioned recent talks with Paul Warnke, the counsel for the Micronesian Joint Committee for Future Status, and the territorial committees of the US Congress. Ambassador Williams indicated a skeptical attitude by some on Capitol Hill towards military plans in the TTPI and asked for DepSecDef support when it came time for hearings on these matters. DepSecDef assured the Ambassador of his full support and revealed that he intended to visit Saipan and Tinian after the Korean Security Consultative meetings in Hawaii this fall. DepSecDef indicated that he wanted Mr. Ellsworth to accompany him. Ambassador Williams thought this would be a good idea. DepSecDef then excused himself to meet another commitment and Mr. Ellsworth wrapped up the meeting by emphasizing DOD and Congressional insistence on purchasing vice leasing land for base development, and cited the pitfalls of engaging an appraiser to develop land values in the area.

COMMENT: A letter is being staffed for signature this week to request the Navy and Air Force to provide the necessary membership and support for the US-Marianas Land Committee. The names of the members and advisors will be provided to Ambassador Williams office prior to 4 July.

Memorandum of Conversation  
Prepared by: Captain E.G. Whelan

Approved by:



Date:

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