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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

25 June 1974

SUBJECT: Ambassador Williams' Meeting with CSAF

1. CSAF met with Ambassador Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, from 1130 until 1215 on 24 June 1974. Mr. James Wilson, Deputy to Ambassador Williams, Mr. Philip Hilbert, SAFIA, and Major Granberry, XOXXEP, were in attendance.
2. General Brown opened the meeting with a general discussion of current topics of interest to the Defense establishment; e.g., SALT, Middle East settlement, and a recent appearance before Congress.
3. Ambassador Williams then presented a resume of the Fourth Round of Marianas Status Negotiations and included some of the history of the negotiations.

- History of negotiations
 - US wanted all of Tinian
 - Proposal drew static from Marianas
 - Criticism from some staff members of Congress
 - US went to fallback position
 - About 2/3 of Tinian, plus the harbor
 - US intends to upgrade West Field
 - B-52 capable base
 - Augment Guam facilities
 - Use Tinian for WRM and nuclear storage
 - Marine exercises
- Fourth Round of Negotiations quite productive
 - Substantial agreement reached
 - Commonwealth status for Marianas
 - US to have sovereignty
 - Marianas to have internal self-government
 - Under a Constitution

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- US promised to provide financial assistance
 - During transitional period
- Agreement reached on all land requirements
 - 2/3 of Tinian and port area
 - Island of Farallon de Medinilla
 - Target area
 - 500 acres adjacent to Isley Field on Saipan
 - AF possible contingency use
 - 200 acres around Tanapag Harbor, Saipan
 - Navy possible contingency use

4. Following the resume, the Ambassador expressed a belief that purchasing the land on Tinian and Saipan may not be feasible since land is considered very precious by the Marianas people. The Ambassador said that it seemed probable that he would have to go to his authorized fallback position of securing a 50 year lease, renewable for another 50 years. General Brown commented that the period of the lease was probably no great factor, since his experience had shown that if sufficient public pressure was brought to bear, the lease could probably be broken anyway.

5. Ambassador Williams said that he hoped that the Services would act in good faith to lease back a maximum amount of military acquired land for civilian use, as long as civilian use was compatible with military operations. Ambassador Williams mentioned the ranching operation of Mr. Ken Jones and the fact that he had some cattle on present USAF retention lands. He also said that he considered the present Marine exercise on Tinian to be a good vehicle for emphasizing that the military "owns" that land, not Ken Jones, by landing some helicopters on the retention land now being grazed by Jones' cattle.

6. Ambassador Williams discussed the DOD proposal to resettle the Tinian residents of San Jose village to another location on the island. Proposed move was to have been made to satisfy safety requirements for ammunition handling at the Tinian harbor. He said that he had shown pictures and vu-graphs of a proposed new village of concrete block houses to the Tinian residents and thought he had a fair indication that they were preparing to agree to relocate. Then DOD presented an option

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to construct a wet slip for ammo handling which would obviate the need to relocate the village. He thought this option and change in DOD position was a little late in surfacing and indicated that it caused him some negotiating problems, but he believed the problems had been worked out to the satisfaction of both the US and the Marianas. (AO Comment: This line of talk by the Ambassador doesn't track too well to previous events. One of the major sticking points in previous negotiations was the requirement to relocate the village. The Ambassador, himself, asked DOD to investigate the feasibility of an alternate ammo handling facility. After the Navy conducted the feasibility study and determined that it was feasible to construct a wet slip for ammo handling, it seemed preferable to the previous position for several reasons. The wet slip would obviate the need to relocate the village, would reduce total land required for military use, would allow normal cargo handling at the harbor in conjunction with ammo handling at the wet slip, and would actually be less expensive because we would not have to build a new village. It would seem that the Ambassador should have been able to turn this new development to his advantage in the negotiations, i.e, no need to relocate village and less land required for military.)

7. Ambassador Williams said that agreement was reached on the land requirements on Saipan. That in order to secure agreement, he had used the inducement of the US building a park on the 200 acres around Tanapag Harbor. He said the park was envisioned as an area of cleared beach, recreation fields, possibly a swimming pool, etc., and that all US agencies liked the idea. He said that Admiral Moorer had been involved in the park concept and that he would ask for General Brown's help when "he put on his other hat" as Chairman. The Ambassador said that the park was to be on land that the Navy wanted held for possible contingency purposes and that Admiral Moorer had been in touch with the Secretary of the Interior, but that it probably would not qualify for funding as a national park. General Brown asked how it could be funded and Mr. Hilbert said that it would probably have to be through special Congressional action rather than through the Service Secretaries. There was no extended discussion on the point.

8. Ambassador Williams briefly mentioned that some members of the UN might create some unfavorable publicity for the US, perhaps originating from the USSR delegate who sits on the UN committee concerned with monitoring trust territories. It was also mentioned that a source of irritation for the USG was the Micronesian Legal Service, an adjunct of the Office of Equal Opportunity, and other left leaning persons opposed to the military in general. Ambassador Williams seemed to believe that these considerations, while important, were fairly well in hand.

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9. Ambassador Williams briefly mentioned the economic picture in the Marianas, and said that the coming military presence had been factored into the equation of overall US financial assistance. He said that a Joint Land Commission, with Mr. Wilson heading the US contingent, would be working out the details of land acquisition, including cost and method of payment, this Summer, and hopefully the final agreement can be signed this Fall. In this regard, Ambassador Williams stressed the point that a lot of hopes were riding on an early military presence on Tinian, and a lot of promises had been made to the Marianas people. He said that there were some questions coming from Congress, primarily from staff members rather than from Congressmen, that would most likely have to be answered. Questions such as, "What's the real value of Tinian?", "Why do we need another base so close to Guam?", and "Why do we need Tinian land when there is still unused military land on Guam?" Ambassador Williams said that he must be assured of continuing DOD resolve to build a base on Tinian, and he would probably be asking for General Brown's help before Congress. General Brown replied that getting Congressional funding might be a possible problem. Then went on to say that "We'll do our part", and commented that Japan may push the US to reduce base holdings and he was unsure just how strong the US would react. At this point, General Brown complimented Ambassador Williams on the progress he had made in the negotiations.

10. Ambassador Williams shifted the conversation from the Marianas Negotiations to the on-going negotiations with the Micronesian delegation and briefly touched on the military land requirements in the other districts. He said that these requirements were the continuing use of the Western Test Range facilities in the Marshalls by the Army which could possibly require new lease negotiations, and the Palau options required by the Navy. Ambassador Williams said that the "termination" clause was the hold-up in those negotiations. That the Micronesians wanted the right of unilateral termination of the "Free Association" relationship under negotiation, but had tentatively agreed to making unilateral termination contingent upon a signed agreement that guaranteed long range US security interests of access denial to foreign military forces, right of basing for US forces, and US responsibility for area defense. This arrangement would effectively neutralize a unilateral termination of the proposed Compact of Free Association.


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11. General Brown asked what would happen if he stopped through the TTPI. The Ambassador and Mr. Wilson agreed that it would have a positive effect on the Marianas efforts, but probably a negative effect if a stop were made outside the Marianas. The Ambassador said he felt that it was a good time to fly the flag and would welcome a high level visit by General Brown and perhaps a small detachment on Tinian just to provide a presence. The Ambassador said that the present Marine exercise on Tinian was going exceptionally well and receiving an excellent reception on Tinian.

12. General Brown thanked the Ambassador for his update and after an exchange of pleasantries, the visitors departed.


CARL W. GRANBERRY
Major, USAF
AF/XOXXEP

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