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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner, Saipan

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DATE: 7/10/74

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TO : Deputy High Commissioner

FROM : Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: Joint Communique - Marianas Political Status Commission/
United States Delegations for Marianas Status Negotiations

Conclusions and recommendations: If there is to be a "divorce" with the Marianas becoming a separate administrative district - prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement - than I strongly recommend the following:

First, representatives from the Trust Territory Government sit in on all preliminary discussions relating to transition and participate immediately. They need not be a "voting member" but they should certainly be involved as they can contribute greatly to a smooth and effective transition and their presence will benefit all three interested parties - the proposed new administration of the Northern Marianas, the existing Trust Territory Government and United States Delegation.

Second, once the "Political Status Agreement" is signed, I would urge establishment of a "new government of the Northern Marians" as quickly as possible. Any delay, excessive or otherwise, between the occurrence of these two events will, in my opinion, create more problems than it will solve.

Third, I urge the creation of a Tinian "Study Committee" for the purpose of the evaluating the future consequences of having a large "joint service military base" on a small island under civilian control. While there appears to be many advantages to this type of the arrangement, there are very definite disadvantages - particularly in a long run.



N. Neiman Craley, Jr.

cc: Status LNO

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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner, Saipan

TO : Deputy High Commissioner

DATE:

FROM : Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: Joint Communique - Marianas Political Status Commission/
United States Delegation for Marianas Status Negotiations

"During these discussions the delegations affirmed the basic decisions reached in earlier sessions with respect to the future political relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States which include the establishment of a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas under U. S. sovereignty with maximum internal self-government, including the right of the people to draft and adopt their own constitution and to establish local courts to administer local laws."

The above indicates that the "Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas" will be established and the people (of the Northern Marianas) will have the right" to draft and adopt their own constitution and to establish local courts to administer local laws." If the Northern Marianas is indeed going to become a Commonwealth with maximum internal self-government and if this is going to happen within the near future, I personally question whether the Marianas should participate in the forthcoming Micronesian Constitutional Convention. As a citizen of one of the other five districts, I would resent having delegates from an administrative district committed to a separate status participate in establishing a Constitution for my district or the other four districts of "Micronesia".

I also feel that there is some logical time when this announced "new, separate district" should no longer participate as a member of the Congress of Micronesia - enacting laws which would basically affect "Micronesia" but may not affect them in their new status.

I note that a large portion of Tinian "will be made available for the development of a joint service military base...." While Tinian obviously has a great mass of land in comparison with Ebeye, we should not lose sight of the Kwajalein/Ebeye problem. If Tinian does become "a joint service military base" with the balance of the island "under civilian control of the Marianas Government...", there will be, in the writers opinion, in time, a major civilian population build-up as many "citizens" of the Northern Marianas, Micronesians, Americans and other expatriates flock to Tinian to participate in the newly found economic bonanza.

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This, in turn, could create an enlarged Ebeye with many of its related problems. Obviously, land would not be a major problem, for Tinian offers considerable land for development and expansion of the present San Jose Village. Needless to say, public utilities will be affected. If the civilian population doubles, additional water, additional power, local streets, additional schools, additional police, expanded hospital facilities, etc, etc, etc, would have to be considered and financed in order to accomodate the increased demands. Many of these people would come to Tinian in anticipation of getting jobs. If jobs were not immediately, available, unemployment could take place and bring with it a multitude of problems.

The military is capable of dealing with these problems when they have complete and final control, for they can restrict immigration. Normally civilian governments do not have that authority. This issue does not affect the present administration as much as it will the future government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

"A Report by the Joint Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee on Transition established at the third negotiating session last December was approved. The Report outlined a proposed program of studies and events to take place between the time of the signing of a political status agreement and the establishment of a new Government of the Northern Marianas under its own constitution. These studies will include those related to government organization and planning for the Marianas constitutional convention, research and planning for government reorganization and the initial legislative program,... and study of the impact of relocation of the capital of the Trust Territory. The events anticipated to take place include a political status education program and status plebiscite, a constitutional convention, a constitutional education program and constitutional referendum, and finally the election of a new government."

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This confirms that the "new Government" will have its own structure, its own constitutional convention, ~~its own constitutional convention~~, its own reorganization and its own legislative program. The above paragraph does introduce one new consideration - "relocation of the capital of the Trust Territory." What happens to the present Headquarters complex during the interim? Will the Marianas District continue to support and maintain the present facilities and, if so, to what degree and under what agreement? What will be the status of Micronesians from other districts currently working and residing in the Marianas and in what way will they and their families be affected? Needless to say, Headquarters' families will continue to use the local hospital and their children the local schools. We will continue to rely on the District to provide water, power and sewage disposal. Will the District continue to provide police protection, fire protection and facility maintenance and to what degree and under what conditions?

Will the Territorial Government participate in any of the studies mentioned above and/or play a part in the political status education program and status plebiscite, the constitutional convention, the constitutional convention education program, the constitutional referendum of the election of the new government?

"A Joint Commission on Transition, consisting of representatives of the Marianas and the United States, will be established to provide continuing consultation and policy guidance on all matters related to the change in political status...."

Frankly, there should be representatives from the Trust Territory Headquarters serving on this "Joint Commission on Transition". First, Headquarters presently provides many support functions for all districts - including the Marianas. Headquarters "expertise" would be valuable to this Joint Commission in many ways. Secondly, there should be some liaison between the District and the Headquarters during this transition, in order that the Headquarters can be adequately prepared for the final separation and be aware of the time and schedule and the progress of developments.

"The two delegations tentatively agreed on an initial 7-year program of U. S. financial assistance to begin following the installation of a new Government of the Northern Marianas in accordance with a popularly approved constitution. This could be as early as July 1976...."

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If July, 1976, seems to be a realistic date, there should be considerable liaison and work going on now between all three parties - "The two delegations" mentioned above and the Trust Territory Headquarters. While the latter may play no role in determining the future of the Northern Marianas, we are, nevertheless, tremendously involved. First, the Marianas represents 1/6th of our program effort/activity and secondly, the Headquarters is still physically located within the Marianas District. For these reasons and others, it is essential that all three parties work together now.

"In the light of the progress achieved, both parties agreed to the establishment of a Joint Drafting Committee.... Their draft will be presented to the Marianas Political Status Commission and the United States at the next negotiating session. It was reaffirmed that any final agreement will have to be approved by the Marianas District Legislature, the people of the Marianas Islands District in a plebiscite, and by the United States Congress."

First, I am assuming that all islands within the Northern Marianas will "sink or swim" together, in spite of the fact one or two major islands within the Northern Marianas might vote against such an agreement. If this assumption is correct, this would have to be thoroughly understood by all people within the Northern Marianas so that they know the 'ground rules'.

Secondly, timing will be extremely important. It could become critical if the United States Congress is not prepared to immediately accept and ratify this agreement - should the people of the Northern Marianas choose it. A delay on the part of the United States Congress could present many problems locally.

"The final substantive item of discussion centered on the Marianas Political Status Commission's request for consideration of early transition to self-government and the possible separate administration of the Marianas District prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. The Commission shared its preliminary views with the United States Delegation for the purpose of opening a dialogue on this important subject...."

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Once again "early transition" is spoken of and linked with a "separate administration of the Marianas District..." I wish to reiterate my previous suggestion and urge the involvement of the Trust Territory Headquarters in all of these discussions regarding "transition" and the establishment of a "separate administration". I think this is essential for the reasons previously stated.



N. Neiman Craley, Jr.

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