

*Marianas
Joint Meeting
Common file*

03

September 10, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS FILE

Subject: Conversation with Tom Dunmire

I followed up on Dunmire's call to Howard Willens today concerning the status agreement. The United States delegation had apparently prepared a memorandum for Dunmire which explained the "requests" which the MPSC had made. Dunmire read me a sentence from the memorandum which purported to describe Section 207 of the MPSC draft of the status agreement, concerning limitations on U. S. legislative authority. The sentence was so confused that Dunmire thought that we had requested that United States not have any legislative authority with respect to the Marianas. I explained that we had proposed that the United States have the same legislative authority as it has with respect to a state plus additional authority which could be exercised when there is a sufficient national interest by naming the Marianas specifically. Dunmire thought that our proposal was a reasonable one.

We also discussed briefly matters relating to the applicability of U. S. laws. Dunmire's main concern seemed to be that each law we mentioned would involve a different committee of Congress, and that such matters should be held for implementing legislation rather than put into the status agreement. I explained that there were some laws which were so important to us that we felt we had to deal with them in the status agreement, but that this would be a limited number. We touched briefly on the Jones Act, and the minimum wage laws.

We also discussed eminent domain provisions. Dunmire thought that the Congress would oppose the kinds of provisions which the MPSC had drafted into its version of the Agreement, but didn't see any objection to the suggestion that specific Congressional action be required each time before the power of eminent domain is exercised.

Dunmire was preparing for a meeting with Clauson later this week when Congress reassembled. I told him that I thought it would be unfortunate if he and the Congressman spent time reviewing proposals which had been made by either party in view of the fact that new proposals were being made each day and

that the Joint Drafting Committee was attempting to draft a final version of the status agreement. He agreed that it would be unwise for him or the Congressman to go into the matter in detail. Dunmire said he thought the Ambassador might be going up to the Hill this week.


Michael S. Helfer

cc: Howard P. Willens