

15
5,964

9/11/74

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Liaison Officer
Joint U.S.-Marianas Transition Secretariat

I. Nature and Purpose of Work

The U.S. Government and representatives of the Marianas District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands have concluded a tentative agreement providing for the establishment of a U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prior to the establishment of the new commonwealth government - estimated to be about July 1, 1976-- a number of important studies will be undertaken as well as the holding of public votes on the crucial issues of the proposed future political status and draft constitution for the new Commonwealth.

A Joint Marianas-U.S. Commission on Transition has been established to ensure that all parts of the status agreement bearing on transition to Commonwealth are faithfully executed and to provide broad policy guidelines for all necessary planning and research to be carried out during the first phase of the agreed transition program. It will also provide policy guidance to a Joint Secretariat and oversee or review all relevant studies and transition activities.

The Transition Commission will be assisted by a Joint Transition Secretariat as its operating arm. The Secretariat will be headquartered in Saipan and will be responsible to the Joint Commission.

The primary role of the Secretariat will be to manage the study program approved by the Joint Commission and to ensure that all the essential steps toward the new political status (constitutional convention, referendum, plebiscite, etc.) are carried out in the manner prescribed and

03 - 032657

on schedule.

The Secretariat will administer the funds provided for all approved studies and events and issue periodic reports on the status of the program, employ private firms or consultants as may be required, and respond to requests for assistance from the Marianas representatives on implementation of transition studies and activities undertaken by the Marianas people directly.

In broad terms, the transition program consists of:

1. The planning for and the holding of a constitutional convention, the drafting of a constitution, a public education program on the proposed constitution and a popular referendum on the constitution.
2. Research and planning for the organization of the new government.
3. The development of an initial legislative program for the new government.
4. Research into the range and scope of U.S. Federal programs and services that might usefully be made applicable to the new Commonwealth.
5. Studies in the field of economic and social development; government fiscal and revenue policy; master planning for the use of land resources; and the impact on the human and financial resources of the Marianas when the capital of the TTPI is moved from Saipan.
6. An intensive program of Education for Self-Government; the holding of a plebiscite on the question of political status, and the election of members of the new government.

II. Duties

The liaison officer's role in the Secretariat is a unique one; while he will not be in charge of an area of studies, he will undertake specific tasks assigned him by the Director of the Secretariat. For example:

(1) He will examine in detail, the full range of U.S. Federal programs and services available to the States and the Territories of the U.S. in order to submit recommendations on the programs and services that should be made applicable to the Marianas; and

(2) He will study these programs from the standpoint of:

- a. their relevance to the Marianas
- b. the amount of money or other resources that could reasonably be expected to be realized from the individual programs.
- c. the likelihood of getting the Marianas made eligible.
- d. the conditions under which such assistance is provided, e.g., matching contributions and a determination whether the Marianas could be expected to meet such conditions.
- e. the likelihood of such assistance being continued in the future in light of the movement to "revenue sharing" in which the territories do not participate.
- f. the priority items to be concentrated on in light of need and timing imperatives.

He will prepare regular reports on his activities and file a final report containing a full set of recommendations and back-up data.

III. Qualifications

The candidate will be a resident of the Marianas with an excellent command of English.

If possible the candidate will have held a senior position in the Trust Territory Headquarters or District Government and is knowledgeable concerning the full range of development needs and on-going government programs in the Marianas.

The selected candidate must be prepared to be away from the Marianas during a major part of the assignment. He may visit other territories to discuss the programs applicable to those territories, but will spend most of his time in

032659

Washington D.C. consulting with the Department of the Interior, other U.S. agencies, and Congressional Committee staff members on the details of Federal programs.

IV. Terms of Employment:

Salary will be in accordance with the previous earning record of the selected candidate. The maximum salary will be \$18,000 a year. Allowance for travel and per diem will be in accordance with Trust Territory standard regulations.

The duration of the assignment is a minimum of 18 months; the employment will be by a personal services contract that can be terminated by either party with 60 days notice.