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September 11, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FILE

Subj: Current Developments

I had telephone conversations with Captain Scott and Senator Pangelinan. The following events have transpired:

1. The District Legislature unanimously enacted a resolution calling for separate administration of the Marianas. Apparently, the resolution was essentially the one which we proposed with some amendments, suggested by Mr. Muna, that I was familiar with.

2. The District Legislature, however, did not enact the proposed legislation designating a non-profit membership corporation to receive and administer public lands. According to Senator Pangelinan, the members of the Legislature changed their minds at the last minute and decided to give title of the lands to the District Administrator to be administered in accordance with instructions from the Legislature. Senator Pangelinan said that the Legislature would undoubtedly consider our proposal again at the February session. He also said in passing that the Micronesia legal services people had reviewed our proposal and agreed that the non-profit membership corporation was the best way to go.

Captain Scott did not seem to understand what had happened on this subject and apparently is considering whether or not designation of the District Administrator complies with the U. S. policy statement. Do we have any views on this? *yes.*

3. The next meeting of the Joint Land Committee is set for September 19 here in Washington. Members of the Committee and Mr. White will be arriving here on September 16 or 17. We are asked to meet and advise the members of the Committee during these sessions. The reports of both the Joint Land Committee and the Joint Drafting Committee are now due on September 30.

4. With respect to future scheduling, Ambassador Williams will be meeting with Senator Pangelinan on or about October 7 to review the reports of the two Committees. Our client has now told the U. S. delegation that we do not want to meet until after the November 5 election. Among other reasons, Mr. Tenorio is running against Senator Pangelinan. This means the next session of negotiations will be deferred until some time in November.

5. Captain Scott also informed me that Ambassador Williams and his staff are busy preparing for a meeting before Senator Jackson's subcommittee. He gave me the impression that the hearing pertains to status matters. Under these circumstances, he did not believe that the

meeting of the Joint Drafting Committee could be held this week. I said that we were ready to meet and would leave the initiative to meet with him and Mr. Wilson.

 H. P. Willens

cc. P. J. Mode  
E. O'Hara  
M. Helfer  
James R. Leonard