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January 18, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FILE

Subject: Meeting of January 18, 1974

A meeting was held today in the office of James M. Wilson, Jr., from approximately 3:10 to 4:00 p.m. Attending for the United States were Mr. Wilson, Richard Scott, Steven Loftus, and Adrian de Graffenried. Attending for the MPSC were Howard Willens, James Leonard and Michael Helfer. The following is a summary of the discussions had at the meeting.

Scheduling Matters

Mr. Wilson said that Mr. Silver would be unable to visit the Trust Territory as planned because of his health. Instead, Mr. James Berg and Mr. Richard Miller will leave for the Trust Territory on the 22d of January. Their primary mission will be to obtain information related to Joint Committee negotiations. However, they will also obtain information, including copies of planning reports relating to the Marianas, which the United States wants in order to prepare for the Ad Hoc Committee meetings. Messrs. Berg and Miller will contact Senator Pangelinan when they arrive in the Marianas. It was agreed that Messrs. Berg and Miller will obtain some information for Mr. Leonard as well and that they would meet with Mr. Leonard today to discuss the data he needs.

Mr. Wilson said that he was going to the Trust Territory at the end of this month, primarily to discuss financial matters on a technical level with representatives of the Joint Committee.*/ Messrs. Wilson, Berg, and Miller are expected to return to Washington no later than the middle of February. Mr.

*/ Apparently these discussions grew out of a meeting Mr. Wilson said he had with Senator Salii after the last round of MPSC negotiations.

Wilson also said that Ambassador Williams would be in Saipan on January 29, and expected to meet with Senators Pangelinan and Salii. The Ambassador and Mr. Wilson will meet in Guam on the 30th or 31st of January.

It was Mr. Wilson's expectation that the next round of Joint Committee talks would be held "springish" as would the next round of MPSC talks, though no firm date has been set for either.

Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Wilson said that the Ambassador expected to discuss with Senator Pangelinan three matters relating to the Ad Hoc Committee: the timing of the Committee's report, the announcement of its members, and the financing of its operations. With respect to timing Mr. Wilson suggested that the March 1st deadline would have to be delayed two weeks in view of Mr. Silver's illness. Mr. Willens agreed. With respect to membership, Mr. Wilson never explicitly stated who the U. S. members were to be. He did indicate, as discussed below, that Captain Scott and Messrs. Loftus and Silver would bear responsibility for Ad Hoc Committee business from the United States side. Mr. Willens stated that he and Mr. Leonard would be the representatives of the Commission on the Ad Hoc Committee. He added that Senator Pangelinan could participate in the work of the Committee near the end of its deliberations if that becomes necessary. With respect to finances, Mr. Wilson stated that a justification for the \$45,000 the United States is to provide would have to be developed. Mr. Willens had no objection, but said that the most important thing was to get the work of the Ad Hoc Committee off the ground.

Mr. Wilson proposed to divide the work of the Ad Hoc Committee into three areas: political/legal, for which Mr. Loftus would be responsible from the United States side; economics, for which Mr. Silver would be responsible; and management, for which Captain Scott would be responsible. In addition, Captain Scott would "head up the operation" for the United States. Mr. Willens agreed that this was a sensible division of the responsibilities of the Ad Hoc Committee. With respect to the political/legal or government planning aspects, Mr. Willens suggested that the initial work concentrate on determining more precisely the scope of the government planning job, and only then on who will provide the necessary services and how much it will cost. It was agreed that a meeting would be held on the government planning portion of the Ad Hoc Committee's responsibilities by the end of January. With respect to economics, Mr. Willens suggested that serious discussions await Mr. Silver's return to

full-time work. With respect to management, Mr. Willens opined that there should be no obstacles to progress in this area, and that a meeting might be held by the end of the month. Mr. Wilson agreed to these suggestions.

Other Committees

Mr. Willens raised the question of how the other committees should proceed. It was agreed that their work should continue but that the responsibilities assigned to the Ad Hoc Committee should be completed first. With respect to the Committee on Political Status/Legal Issues, Mr. Wilson said that the United States had been reviewing matters which fall within this Committee's jurisdiction, and would be in touch shortly. It was agreed that this Committee would begin serious work after the middle of March but before that time an agenda would be agreed upon. With respect to the Committee on Economics/Financial Support, it was agreed that its work would be deferred for a time in view of Mr. Silver's health and the responsibilities of the Ad Hoc Committee. With respect to the Committee on Military Land Requirements, Mr. Willens stated that a great deal of technical work remained to be done before progress could be made on this matter at the negotiating table. Captain Scott said that the Department of Defense was preparing "terms of reference" in preparation for a meeting of this Committee, and that he would be in contact with Mr. Willens on this matter as soon as that project was completed.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Willens reported that the Commission's consultants were devoting considerable time to the structure of a corporation to administer public lands in the Marianas. He stated that it may be necessary for an attorney to go to the Marianas in February on this matter. He also stated that he had received a copy of a draft of the bill which would be introduced in the Congress of Micronesia to implement United States land policy. He asked if the United States representatives had a copy of that draft or any later draft and Mr. de Graffenried replied that they had not yet seen the legislation.*

*/ Subsequent to the meeting Mr. Willens and Mr. Helfer met Mr. Berg, who stated that he had the draft bill, and planned to provide Mr. Willens a revised version next week. It was agreed that Mr. Berg would call Mr. Lapin on Monday to discuss the legislation. The legal work on the legislation for the United States is apparently being done by Mr. Steven Sander in the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Wilson reported that the Commission had begun to attend town meetings throughout the Marianas. He also stated that the Joint Committee had presented a report to the Congress of Micronesia which was unfavorable to the separate negotiations for the Marianas. He also said that news articles in the Marianas and Guam had wrongly indicated that Rota wants a separate status.

Mr. Wilson reported that Ambassador Williams had met with Congressman Burton and that the Congressman was generally pleased with the progress in the Marianas negotiations. Congressman Foley had not been briefed before the trip, and had indicated his displeasure. Mr. Wilson said that he would talk to Senator Johnson next week, and that while Senator Jackson was preoccupied with energy matters now, his staff had been kept up to date, and the Ambassador will try to see him shortly. Mr. Willens asked if there was anything he should do now with respect to keeping Congress informed about the negotiations. Mr. Wilson replied that Mr. Willens should do nothing. Mr. Willens stated that he would be making such contacts at Capital Hill as he considers appropriate.

Michael S. Helfer

sc: H. Willens
J. Leonard
J. Lapin
P. Mode