

OUC

03  
6,5

28 January '74

To: Mr James Wilson

Subject: Questions re Political Aspects of Transition in the N.Marianas

In order to assist in the drafting of a "detailed plan of action for Phase I" it would be most helpful if the following points were explored by your group during its stay on Saipan. The answers to some of these questions may be obvious and some of the questions might be premature or unanswerable, but I think they all merit at least some additional thought or consultation with our friends on the MPSC or its consultants.

Position or tentative views of the MPSC on key matters of transition

For example:

1. Does the Marianas delegation in the COM plan to take any definitive steps during the current session of the COM in support of their "separatism"? e.g. do they plan to participate in a Constitutional Convention if held this year?
2. Do they expect the US or the TT Administration to take any specific steps in anticipation of a stronger effort by the leadership of the COM to nullify or otherwise subvert their drive for separate status? i.e. should we be prepared to amend the Secretarial Order to provide stronger legal basis for further negotiations with the MPSC?

Other possibilities or problems

3. What can or should be done during the remainder of this school year in the Marianas to further their political education?
4. What can be done to maximize MPSC/local participation in the planning for the new government, Phase I activities, as opposed to continued reliance on outsiders?

03 029441

5. What are the views of our friends on the MPSC as to the contents of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transition, in contrast to what Willens may propose or has proposed?
6. Are they sold on the proposed division of labor between the U.S. and the MPSC in Phase I, e.g. that they have the sole-unilateral responsibility- for holding a constitutional convention, political education, conducting a referendum and planning the organization of the new government of the N. Marianas? i.e. what should we or the Administration be prepared to do or provide in these areas?
7. Further thoughts on the organization and function of the Joint Secretariat or the Joint Committee on Transition? What, for example, is the current thinking out there regarding the need for preliminary staff studies and in what specific areas?
8. What are the chances of getting the CCM to adopt a resolution or otherwise recognize the right of the Marianas to seek a separate status? On the other hand, is it likely that the CCM will enact legislation condemning the separate negotiations with the MPSC? If this is judged probable, what counter-measures are available, either to head this off or to reduce its effect? e.g. a "quickie referendum" on status in all of the municipalities of the Marianas?
9. What specific steps can be undertaken in the next several months to reinforce the movement toward Commonwealth Status, e.g. organizing a political education program, getting the District Legislature to initiate a program of education for self-government, including training of key administrative personnel, political action in support of the MPSC, initiating studies regarding the economic implications of a separate status, etc.
10. What if anything can be done in the Executive Branch to further the U.S. position? e.g. priority to Marianas in the implementation of the new land

policy, MP area, etc? At a minimum, it is important that the principal U.S. members of the Administration be persuaded not to oppose progress toward a separate status for the N. Marianas. They must be made to realize that we will not tolerate any conscious or deliberate efforts to subvert U.S. policy in this area. If necessary the HICOM should be prepared to "exile" any offenders if dismissal is not feasible.

11. What preparatory steps can be taken prior to Phase I pursuant to organizing a Constitutional Convention and related activities-or, should we leave this entirely to the MPSC or its consultants?
12. Is there any possibility of fractioning the Carolinian Bloc in the district, i.e. enticing some of its leaders into the commonwealth camp?
13. Is it possible to get a good inventory of those in the district who would be best qualified to organize and cadre a new district government? We also need to know who the more important "fence sitters" are and what it would take to move them into our camp, short of money??
14. Would it be wise or politic to encourage the CCM or the Executive Branch to update the study of alternative sites for the new capital of the TTPI and to draw up alternative A&E plans sometime soon??
15. Are there any amendments to the timetable as set forth in the attached draft from Jim Berg re transition in the Marianas.
16. To what extent can we rely on the Administration for assistance in preparing the detailed action plan or planning for Phase I, as opposed to what needs to be done in Washington?

*Bon Voyage !!*

cc Capt. Scott  
Adrian de Graffenried

*Steve Loftus*