

[12/16/74]

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Q. What is your position on economic policy -- will the emphasis lie on tourism or agriculture-fisheries?

A. I would refer this question to your local government and to the Marianas Political Status Commission who must make these decisions. However, I will say that under the Covenant \$1.5 million annually will be given for economic development loans which could, of course, include tourism and tourist-related industries as well as the agri-fisheries and Retail industries. However \$500,000 of this amount will be reserved for small loans to farmers and fishermen and to agricultural and marine cooperatives.

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Q. Under heavy tourist development, there will probably be a large alien population on Saipan - will they have any political rights?

A. As the alien population will be in United States territory, they will certainly enjoy the rights normally accorded visitors to the United States including those under the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution. Under discussion in the negotiations are local government ability to apply special local regulations to control the alien population in the Marianas which do not now apply in other areas of the United States.

032761

Q. How does the Marianas Status Commission get its mandate in negotiations for Commonwealth?

A. The Marianas Political Status Commission was established by the Marianas District Legislature. Participating in the Commission were your elected leaders in the Marianas District Legislature, your Municipal Councils including Tinian and Rota, your representatives in the Congress of Micronesia, your private business sector, the civilian community and your two political parties. In my view, one would search in vain far and wide from one end of the earth to the other to find a more democratically selected and representative negotiating delegation than the one that has been representing the 14,000 people of the Northern Marianas in these talks.

032762

Q. The United States military is required to do an environmental impact study. Has any study been done or contracted which will project the social effects of a large autonomous military complex within the Marianas.

A. No. However during these negotiations your representatives and I have come to grips with this problem of social effects of a military base on Tinian. I believe we have come up with imaginative solutions which include free access by all the residents on Tinian to beaches, to hunting and fishing areas for recreational and agricultural purposes within the military area compatible with the military operations of the base. Discussions will be held with respect to local community needs for public utility services.

032763

Q. What is your position on population projections recently released by Marianas District Planner, i.e. Lower Level 18,000 (16,000 local and 2,000 alien), Middle Level 40,000 (26,000 local and 14,000 alien), and High Level 80,000 (60,000 local and 20,000 alien).

A. I have not seen these figures, however we all expect normal population growth and I would expect further increases in population as health care services improve under the commonwealth arrangement. An increased population would mean more political opportunities vis-a-vis the rest of the United States including at the High level projection possible reintegration with Guam and eventual statehood if that is your wish.

032764

EArcHer:dt 12/16/74

Q. What is your position on non-Micronesian ownership of land?

A. The Covenant includes provisions providing for restrictive land ownership. Similar provisions in Hawaii and American Samoa have been upheld by the federal court. The law will permit only people of "Northern Marianas ancestry" to own land in the Marianas. We believe that this will protect the Chamorro and Carolinian people from alienating their land to other Americans in the U. S. or Guam or to aliens.

032765

EEArcher:12-16-74:kkc

Q. Does the constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands have to be approved by the Congress of the United States?

A. This is a subject of the negotiations. The constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands must be consistent with the United States constitution and this can be determined either by having it approved by the Congress or by having the Attorney General of the United States certify that the constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands is consistent with the U.S. constitution.

032766

EEArcher:12-16-74:kkc

Q. What are the advantages of United States citizenship over anything else under a different status?

A. I believe that the advantages of United States citizenship fall into two categories, one is it permits the people of the Northern Mariana Islands a lot more choices than anything else under a different status; and second, it is the objective of the United States, as defined from its beginnings as a nation two hundred years ago, to guaranteeing to all its citizens the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In terms of choices, the size of the United States permits the U.S. citizen to travel under his government's protection throughout the world and in the United States; to enjoy a high standard of living guaranteed by federal and state social welfare programs; to obtain a good education for himself and his children; and to die with the knowledge that no matter what his station in life, his family will be given even greater opportunities than he had.

032767



Q. After 7 years will the Covenant end?

A. No. The political relationship between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is a permanent one. The seven year period is for guaranteed financial aid to help the new commonwealth government build the needed hospitals, schools, roads and harbors to increase the standard of living of the people here and to help them increase their economic self-reliance.

032768

Q. How much financial assistance will be given to the Marianas under a new political status and how much to the rest of the Trust Territory?

A. Under the Covenant, the United States guarantees the Commonwealth \$13.5 million in financial assistance plus more than \$3 million in other federal programs. These other federal programs include aid to harbor and riverways, crop insurance, aid to schools, food stamps, housing loans, small business loans and many others. This assistance would average out to over \$1,100 for every man, woman and child in the Marianas. For the Marshalls and Carolines the United States will request \$55 million for an the first five years of the Covenant for/assistance level of \$550 per capita.

EEArcher:12-16-74:kkc

Q. Will the United States sign an agreement at this round of talks?

A. The United States delegation was invited here to participate in the fifth round of talks by the entire Marianas Political Status Commission including all members of the Territorial Party on the Commission.

It has been the United States position since the first session of negotiations that we come to Saipan to agree and to sign the agreement. We have come here five times and if we do not reach full agreement, we will come a sixth time. The pace of the negotiations has always been set by the Marianas Political Status Commission. However, we are here to reach full agreement and if so, we will sign.

032770

EArcher:dt 12/16/74

Q. Will the United States return all the lands it now holds in the Marianas to the people of the Marianas?

A. The United States will return all public lands now held in trust in the Marianas at the end of the Trusteeship. All military retention lands not needed for military needs as defined in the covenant will also be returned. Public lands not presently used by the Trust Territory Government will be returned as soon as a legal district organization is established to receive title to these public lands. We have calculated that some 41,300 acres of public land will be returned including 4,670 acres of military retention lands. The only lands the U.S. will retain are those military retention lands included in areas which the Marianas Political Status Commission has agreed will be made available to the federal government.

032771

EEArcher:12-16-74:kkc

Q. If the United States military did not want land for its bases, would the United States Government consider the Marianas for Commonwealth.

A. The United States is negotiating commonwealth at the request of the people of the Marianas. From the United States point of view, we are proud that the people of the Northern Marianas asked to become part of the American political family. If the base on Tinian is built or even if it is never built, I can say with confidence, fellow citizens, that the people of the United States will be proud to call you their brothers. We are negotiating our military land needs now because we recognize that land is precious here and we do wish you to be fully aware of all the rights and obligations of becoming part of the United States.

032772

EEArcher:12-16-74:kkc

Q. When will the United States implement a separate administration for the Marianas?

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A. On September 7, /the Marianas District Legislature passed a resolution requesting the United States to administer the Mariana Islands, separately from the other districts of the Trust Territory. The resolution requested that this be done as soon as possible after the Covenant is signed and approved by the people of the Marianas. It is our position and that of the Marianas District Legislature that the people/should be given an opportunity to express their wishes clearly by vote before separate administration is implemented. Separate administration will be implemented as soon as possible after a vote by the people of the Mariana Islands.

032773

EEArcher:12-16-74:kkc

Q. The two delegations have been meeting for over two weeks and have reported only once to the people about what is happening. Why do you need such secrecy?

A. The United States delegation believes in the idea of "open covenants, openly arrived at", and we have made available the services of members of our delegation to discuss the status issues with you, in your schools and homes. This is the reason I am here today. However, until some decisions are made in the negotiations it serves no useful purpose to publish our discussions and positions. We will have a joint communique this week at the end of the session and will publish agreed upon portions of the Covenant. As you know there have been joint communiqués published after each session outlining what was decided during the negotiations.

032774

EArcher:dt 12/16/74

Q. Can you define a U. S. national and the differences from a U. S. citizen?

A. A United States national cannot vote in federal elections no matter where he lives in the United States. All United States citizens vote in federal and local elections except in the territories where no American citizen is permitted to vote until he moves to another jurisdiction. All male American citizens and nationals are subject to selective service, and although the draft has been abolished must register. The rights and duties of United States nationals may be described as follows:

(1) A national is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and recognized as such by other nations.

(2) Nationals of permanent allegiance to the United States owe the obligation of military service.

(3) The non-citizen national in the United States does not enjoy the political rights of the citizen. The lack of citizenship precludes his exercise of the right to vote or hold political office in Federal and State elections.

(4) The non-citizen national has the right of access to State and Federal courts under the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment which accords equal protection of the law to all persons within the territorial jurisdiction.

(5) He does not enjoy the constitutional rights of citizens to service upon grand or petit juries in the courts of several states of the United States. The qualifications of a jurymen rests with the states and such qualification will be upheld as long as there is not discrimination in respect to jury service because of race.

032775



EArcher:dt 12/16/74

Q. As the citizens of Guam cannot vote for the President of the United States they have been called second-class citizens. Will the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands be permitted to vote for the President?

A. American citizens residing in the territories of the United States are not permitted to vote in federal elections and therefore cannot vote for the President because of the electoral college system which still exists. However, any American citizen including native born Guamanians who move to other parts of the United States are eligible to vote in all elections when qualified under the state law, for example length of residence in a particular jurisdiction. Likewise any American citizen moving to Guam cannot vote.

032776

EEArcher:12-16-74:kkc

Q. Is it true that if there is a military establishment on Tinian, the children of Tinian residents will be admitted to schools established for military dependents?

A. United States law does not permit the U.S. military to provide schools for military dependents on U.S. soil except in very special circumstances. Tinian would be eligible for federal impact aid to the local municipality to provide the best possible education for all American citizens on Tinian be they military, Chamorro or Carolinian.

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