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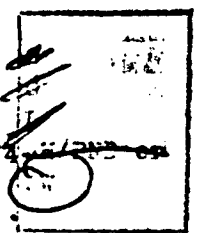
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Attention
Keep this study together.

Washington, D.C. 20520
DECLASSIFIED

December 18, 1974



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MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Proposed Response to Letter to
the President

Mr. Paul Van Niewerburgh wrote a letter to
the President critical of Ambassador Williams'
conduct of the Northern Marianas political status
negotiations. A proposed response, which has been
cleared by the Office of Micronesian Status
Negotiations, is attached.

George S. Springsteen
George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Suggested reply.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by BHB DATE 5/2/88

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Concurrence: PNT/OMSN - Trent
DA - Pulivocchio

OS-425203

SUGGESTED REPLY

Mr. Paul Van Niewerburgh
P. O. Box 321
Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356

Dear Mr. Van Niewerburgh:

On behalf of the President, I would like to respond to your letter of November 26, concerning negotiations over the future status of the Northern Mariana Islands.

As you correctly point out, these negotiations are being carried out for the United States by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, who is the President's Personal Representative. The negotiations with the Northern Marianas are being conducted separately from the talks with the rest of Trust Territory in response to repeated and determined requests by the people of the Northern Marianas over the past twenty years. The people of the Northern Marianas are represented by the Marianas Political Status Commission (MPSC), a body set up under the authority of the Marianas District Legislature. By mutual agreement the negotiations are aimed toward the establishment of a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas under United States sovereignty, which at conclusion of the United Nations trusteeship would be a part of the American

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political family. Any agreement will, of course,
be subject to approval by all of the people of the
Northern Marianas and by the United States Congress.

One of the issues being dealt with in the nego-
tiations relates to basing requirements of the
Department of Defense on the island of Tinian.
The MPSC, including its two members from Tinian,
has already agreed unanimously to United States
acquisition of some 17,000 acres, or approximately
the northern two-thirds of the island, for a multi-
purpose base. The final nature and extent of U.S.
military basing on Tinian will depend on a number
of factors, including satisfactory conclusion of
the negotiations, our defense needs, and the willing-
ness of Congress to provide funds.

The newspaper article which you attached to
your letter refers to a petition originating from
Tinian, opposing U.S. plans and calling for an end
to the talks. This petition, which was dated May
19, 1974, does reflect the views of a certain fac-
tion on Tinian which has been aiming for wider
circulation of its opinions. However, the official
view of the people of Tinian is reflected in the
concurrence of their representatives on the MPSC
which voted unanimously to meet the United States

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requirements after the petition in question had been received. Moreover, a subsequent petition of May 29 by a numerically larger group of voters on Tinian, the "We Love America Committee", opposed the earlier resolution and called on the Marianas Political Status Commission "to negotiate and reach decisions in the many important areas of close association such as land needs, economic needs, political status and transition to and for the benefit of all the people of the Mariana Islands District".

It may be of further interest to note that a recent letter of November 13 addressed to Ambassador Williams and signed by the Speaker of the Tinian Municipal Council and by the Tinian representative in the Marianas District Legislature endorses the U.S. land requests on Tinian and the direction of current negotiations with the MPSC. A copy of this letter is attached for your information.

I am confident that the direction of our negotiations with the MPSC accords with the will of the people of the Northern Marianas, including Tinian. I can assure you that Ambassador Williams will continue to make every effort to discern and respect the wishes of the Northern Marianas.

Sincerely,

001034100

Roland L. Elliott
Special Assistant to the President

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