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December 30, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FILE

Subject: Conversations with James Wilson and Emmett Rice

Wilson called today looking for Willens and got me. He told me that the Secretarial Order concerning the return of public land had been issued on December 26. He will send me a copy in the mail. He said it contains no surprises.

Wilson wanted to know what the District Legislature planned to do to make a formal request for the return of public land and to establish the necessary legal entity. I told him that we had discussed this problem with the Commission very briefly and thought that there might be a move to resurrect the corporation proposal. Wilson asked whether I knew of any plans to call a special session of the District Legislature to consider this matter. I told him that I had heard that idea discussed, but I knew of no plans. Wilson said that Ada and Santos could get together and arrange for a special session to be called.

I got the distinct impression that Wilson would like to see a special January session concerning public land, prior to the regular February session -- which could then be reserved for the Covenant. I assume that Wilson prefers this method of proceeding because it might permit the United States to know more about its prospective landlord before it signs the Covenant and the Technical Agreement.

Emmett Rice called me soon after I talked to Wilson. Rice wanted a prompt meeting to draft the Technical Agreement. I told him I need further instructions from Willens and White, and that I was tied up with other matters. We tentatively agreed to try to get together on January 6.

Michael S. Helfer

cc: H. P. Willens
E. O'Hara
J. White
J. Leonard

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