

[Date 2/1/74]

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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE ON TRANSITION

A joint Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee will be appointed forthwith by the Marianas Political Status Commission and the President's Personal Representative to study and make recommendations to the Chairmen of the Marianas and U.S. Delegations before the next negotiating session regarding the scope, organization and timing of studies and programs necessary to an orderly transition to self-government in the Marianas. Specifically, the Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee will recommend to the Chairmen of the two delegations the following:

1. A detailed work plan, including a timetable and sequence of events, for preparing and undertaking:
 - a. A political education program;
 - b. A plebiscite on future political status;
 - c. A constitutional convention and referendum;
 - d. Legal studies relating to the organizational structure and initial legislative program of the new commonwealth government;
 - e. Studies to identify the Marianas' economic, social and physical infrastructure needs, taking into account as appropriate extant studies on these matters;
 - f. Studies to develop an appropriate fiscal and revenue system for the Marianas;
 - g. A study of the economic or social impact on the Marianas of a relocation of the Capital of Micronesia.

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2. An appropriate organizational structure for accomplishing the important transitional studies and programs. This recommendation will include a description of how a Joint Commission could be organized to provide general guidance for the implementation of these tasks and how a Joint Secretariat might be established to provide specific direction and continuing administrative support;

3. A detailed budget to cover the costs of essential studies, programs, and events falling within the transition period.

The Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee will report their recommendations to the Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission and the President's Personal Representative no later than March 1, 1974. The Chairman and the President's Personal Representative will meet informally shortly thereafter, and before the next session of negotiations, to discuss how to proceed regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee.