

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

March 14, 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BERNARD DOVE

Subject: Liaison Visit to Marianas District Tinian Island
(23-26 March 1974)

Prior to your upcoming visit to Saipan and Tinian, the nature of which we discussed in detail on 7 March 1974, I remind you of the sensitive nature of the political activities now underway in the Marianas District, particularly Tinian, where the Tinian Municipality is planning a referendum on the desirable extent of a U.S. military presence on the island.

It has been (and is) U.S. policy to refrain from interference in local political activities. However, under the present circumstances the Tinian voters are being asked to express a choice on alternatives, involving critical U.S. interests, about which their information is at best, incomplete. Therefore, U.S. objectives would appear to be best served by a discreet effort to provide these people the most complete and accurate information available at this time, in a manner that does not smack of interference in their political process. In this respect, your mission is very timely and can be most helpful to the U.S. political status negotiating position, subject to the following guidelines:

a. At no time should you attribute a purpose to the visit other than it being a necessary supervisory/public relations duty of the Crested Isle Executive Agent.

b. However, feel free to address and discuss appropriate DOD planning for the Tinian base. Please emphasize the tentative nature of any plans involving the Tinian Civil Community (pending later consultations as to their desires) and the flexibility that the U.S. has in the various housing and building designs.

c. Illustrations and explanations of tentative U.S. planning for community development may be distributed and group presentations of this tentative planning may be made, but preferably when the initiative comes from those local groups.

d. Request all talks be kept on a low-key, with a soft-sell presentation of the advantages of the U.S. position.

e. If the opportunity arises, the U.S. may also realize significant political advantage from a review by you of the progress and available results of the various surveys to date, as well as a clear presentation of the next steps in the planning sequence.

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and may visit

f. You will likely be confronted with a number of questions directly involving political status issues, as well as technical and planning questions that could have an impact on status issues. Where these arise, request you use Colonel Kenty to the maximum extent possible to compliment and support your efforts and to answer appropriate questions. In addition to complimenting your efforts, I have also asked Colonel Kenty to take care of several other status related matters during this trip. Your understanding will be appreciated.

g. In addition, recent developments lead me to believe that it may be politically counter-productive at this time to hold discussions with the MPSC as a group.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your timely assistance and cooperation in this matter, as well as to wish you a productive trip and God's speed.

Sincerely, - not an a memo

Franklin Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

Frank Williams

I have White House statement if you want to use it for this letter

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