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SUBJECT

Spring Timetable and Marianas Session IV

HIGHLIGHTS

- At close of Marianas III, general agreement reached to hold Marianas IV in Spring, sometime after Easter.
 - MPSC indicated preference for Hawaii as site for Marianas IV if they had enough money.
- Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee Report originally due 1 March 1974 but slipped to 15 March.
 - Sol Silver's absence.
- At 8 March meeting of Ad Hoc Committee, Howard Willens proposed delay in submission of report to 15 April 1974.
 - Informed Willens on 12 March that Ambassador Williams did not agree to delay beyond 15 March.
- Tentative agreement between Ambassador Williams and Senator Pangelinan in January to meet in Washington in early April to discuss Ad Hoc Committee report.
 - Monterey Talks with Salii now scheduled for period 1-12 April.
 - Desirable, if not mandatory, to have Williams/Pangelinan agreement on Ad Hoc Committee Report prior to Marianas IV.

DISCUSSION

- There are two factors governing the resumption of talks with the MPSC.
 - Operating funds for MPSC
 - Prior agreement on Ad Hoc Committee Report in order to remove Phase I (Transition) from agenda of Marianas IV.

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- As recommended in the point paper on MPSC finances, the Marianas District Legislature should appropriate funds to the MPSC during a special session in April. (Information received 15 March reveals Mariana District Legislature passed a bill: "Act No. 41-1974 authorizing appropriation of \$50,000 to carry out purpose.."related to Marianas Political Status Commission. Opinion in OMSN/DOA is that this is authorization only and that appropriation action must follow). The amount need only be sufficient to cover the next session which could again be held in Saipan to hold the costs down.
- Although OMSN's draft Ad Hoc Committee Report will be discussed with Pangelinan in Hawaii, it is highly doubtful that he will accept it until consulting with his counsel. Appears that earliest date Pangelinan could meet with Williams in Washington is about 18 April based on:
 - Monterey talks through 12 April.
 - Easter - 14 April.
 - Pangelinan's travel and meeting with Counsel - 15-17 April
- Assuming MPSC finances arranged and agreement reached on Ad Hoc Committee Report by 20 April, Marianas IV could begin 6 May. This provides time for both delegations to prepare for talks and travel to site.
- With Phase I out of the way before Marianas IV, session should last no more than two weeks at outside. The controlling date for ending Marianas IV is 28 May, the day the Trusteeship Council Meeting begins in New York. Ambassador White has asked that OMSN be represented; Ambassador Williams agreed to provide a representative.

RECOMMENDATION

- Suggest meeting with Pangelinan in Washington on 18 April to review and reach agreement on the Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee Report.
- Suggest Marianas IV being in Saipan on 6 May 1974.