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March 19, 1974

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE AMBASSADOR
FROM: MVTrent *mt*

SUBJECT: Your Talk with Dist^{ad} Ada

The important result to be hoped for from this discussion will be the strengthening of the rather fragile line of communication between the U.S. side of the Marianas status negotiations and the Dist^{ad} of Marianas. Ada is a proud, temperamental but also capable man with considerable experience in administrative work in the TT. Like all the Dist^{ads}, he is in a difficult position vis-a-vis the status talks. Dist^{ads} feel that progress in the talks poses a direct threat to their personal security and prestige.

Ada probably feels this threat in aggravated form and hence at ~~best~~ best is disinclined to encourage progress in the Marianas negotiations. He is suspicious of developments associated with the Marianas status talks and, while maintaining outwardly correct relations, is inclined to be chilly toward developments related to the status talks. Yet he is a key figure in their movement, especially in the development of the governmental structure of the future Commonwealth. Although not personally popular, he has significant authority in the district and wields it autocratically.

It will therefore be very useful to seek his views on some major matters and thereby encourage warmer working relations. To this end I suggest the following subjects:

1. Ada's suggestions for coping with homestead/land survey problem in the Marianas
2. Administrative problems involved in transition
3. Comments on relations among Saipan/Tinian/Rota: relevance to Marianas' future status
4. Views and interests of Carolinian population in Marianas
5. Prospects for forthcoming elections in Marianas - MDL, COM
6. Marianas' participation and role in constitutional convention
7. Economic developments: growing tourism; foreign investment; Japanese interest and presence

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