

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MPSC  
~~Francisco~~  
X APR 1 1974

The Old Executive Office Building  
Room 361  
Washington, D. C. 20506

01  
2

March 28, 1974

3/28/74

The Honorable Francisco C. Ada  
District Administrator  
Mariana Islands District  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Frank:

I want to thank you again for taking the time to come to Honolulu and also for making Tom Sheehan available for the talks. I found my private conversations with you most helpful and the later discussions with the others on land questions and economic planning useful in giving me a much better understanding of the problems you face and also, I might add, the progress you have been making.

I know that one of the impediments to further and more rapid progress in resolving the myriad land questions including surveying and registering public and private land has been a lack of adequate budget and manpower. I hope that you will find the time to prepare the memorandum we discussed, outlining your critical needs for additional funds and survey teams. It seems to me that all present agreed that a higher priority had to be assigned to this requirement, and this included the High Commissioner. I can assure you that upon receipt of your memorandum I will see that it gets proper attention in the right quarters.

One of the most encouraging things that came out of the Honolulu talks was your farsighted and statesmanlike view on public domain lands and the need now, before it is too late, to review and reevaluate policies and practices with respect to the disposition of such land in the Marianas. I was also pleased with Eddie Pangelinan's and Ben Santos' strong statements in support of your proposal that you name a special commission to begin immediately a reevaluation of the Marianas homestead program and their desire to cooperate in this timely effort.

Both also expressed to me on the morning after your departure their pleasure upon hearing about your willingness to have the Marianas District Administration join in with the MPSC and the U.S. in the establishment of a U.S.-Marianas Advisory Committee on Civil-Military Affairs and Planning. I think such a committee representing

03 034014

March 28, 1974

a broad cross-section of community interest can be a very useful forum for the discussion of areas of importance to future planning for economic development and civil-military cooperation in this area. I am sure Tom Sheehan will be a valuable member of such a group.

I hope your visit to Palau went well. I am sure the students at the Micronesian Occupational Center appreciated your remarks.

All best wishes to you and Mrs. Ada.

Sincerely yours,

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

P.S. I was shocked to learn of the recent boating tragedy. I hope if the occasion arises you will convey my deepest sympathy to the families concerned and to Mayor Borja.

cc: Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations -  
Status LNO, Saipan

034015