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POSITION DESCRIPTION

Development Economist  
Joint U.S.-Marianas Transition Secretariat

I. Nature and Purpose of Work

The U.S. Government and representatives of the Marianas District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands have concluded a tentative agreement providing for the establishment of a U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prior to the establishment of the new commonwealth government - estimated to be about July 1, 1976 - a number of important studies will be undertaken as well as the holding of public votes on the crucial issues of the proposed future political status and draft constitution for the new Commonwealth.

A Joint Marianas-U.S. Commission on Transition has been established to ensure that all parts of the status agreement bearing on transition to Commonwealth are faithfully executed and to provide broad policy guidelines for all necessary planning and research to be carried out during the first phase of the agreed transition program. It will also provide policy guidance to a Joint Secretariat and oversee or review all relevant studies and transition activities.

The Transition Commission will be assisted by a Joint Transition Secretariat as its operating arm. The Secretariat will be headquartered in Saipan and will be responsible to the Joint Commission.

The primary role of the Secretariat will be to manage the study program approved by the Joint Commission and to ensure that all the essential steps toward the new political status (constitutional convention, referendum, plebiscite, etc.) are carried out in the manner prescribed and

on schedule.

The Secretariat will administer the funds provided for all approved studies and events and issue periodic reports on the status of the program, employ private firms or consultants as may be required, and respond to requests for assistance from the Marianas representatives on implementation of transition studies and activities undertaken by the Marianas people directly.

In broad terms, the transition program consists of:

1. The planning for and the holding of a constitutional convention, the drafting of a constitution, a public education program on the proposed constitution and a popular referendum on the constitution.

2. Research and planning for the organization of the new government.

3. The development of an initial legislative program for the new government.

4. Research into the range and scope of U.S. Federal programs and services that might usefully be made applicable to the new Commonwealth.

5. Studies in the field of economic and social development; government fiscal and revenue policy; master planning for the use of land resources; and the impact on the human and financial resources of the Marianas when the capital of the TTPI is moved from Saipan.

6. An intensive program of Education for Self-Government; the holding of a plebiscite on the question of political status, and the election of members of the new government.

## II. Duties

The development economist will be an advisor to the Director of the Secretariat and to the Joint Commission as deemed necessary by the Director, on the selection and conduct of economic development studies

undertaken the aegis of and financed by the Transition program.

He will advise on the timing and scope of individual elements of the total economic development study.

He will advise on the method of accomplishing the goals of the Transition program in the field of economic development studies - as between individual experts and consultants, U.S. Government personnel in Trust Territory Government or in other agencies, contracts with private firms, or non-profit organizations and foundations.

He will assure the availability of all relevant previously made studies and reports including resource inventories, census data, U.N. reports, special reports for the convenience of those undertaking new studies.

He will be responsible for the preparation of position descriptions to the hiring of individual experts and for the preparation of Requests for Proposals (RFP) for contracts.

He will monitor the work of the experts/contractors on a day to day basis to insure compliance with terms of employment and the intent of the program.

He will recommend termination whenever he determines the goals of the program will not be met by the incumbent's performance.

He will insure the preparation of regular program progress reports, their accuracy, and their distribution to end-users along with his own commentary.

He will undertake such specific studies himself or in concert with Trust Territory or other experts as may be deemed feasible within the time constraints of all other duties.

### III. Qualifications

The preferred candidate will have had wide experience in the economic development and in the conduct of or the arranging for economic development studies.

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The requirement is for a broad gauged development planner - as opposed to a technician in a particular development field or discipline. He will have held responsible positions in the management of development programs or economic development studies.

The emphasis will be on practical experience and proven capability in this field as well as professional training.

Relevant experience would be senior positions with UNDP, World Bank, AID, and field team leaders for economic development survey.

Training will preferably be in the field of economics, and particularly in the field of economic development of less developed countries.

#### IV. Terms of Employment

Salary will be in accordance with the previous earning record of the selected candidate. The maximum salary will be \$22000 plus a 25% allowance and free housing and transportation to and from Saipan for employee and eligible dependents (children under 18 years of age and dependent parents).

The duration of the assignment is a minimum of 18 months; the employment will be by a personal service contract that can be terminated by either party with 60 days notice.

In order to be eligible for free return transportation to the U.S., the employee must have been employed at least 12 months or terminated for the convenience of the contractor.