

03/5,6

UNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE E D

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED
ON 11-10-1985 UNDER PRO-
VISIONS OF E.O. 12355 BY
YHCS D.K. BOWEN, USN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, OMSN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

Saipan, Mariana Islands

DATE: January 22, 1975

SUBJECT: Covenant for Commonwealth of Northern Marianas

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Francisco T. Palacios, Territorial Party MPSC Member
David L. Schiele, Deputy Status LNO

COPIES TO: OMSN (2)
EA/ANP
USUN

The reporting officer called on Dr. Palacios in his office on the afternoon of January 22 to enquire about progress in the MPSC efforts to inform the people about the draft Covenant. Specifically, he wanted to know if the document had been translated into Carolinian and had been circulated among the Carolinian population. Dr. Palacios responded that Felix Rabauliman was working on the translation, but that he had not yet finished. Palacios went on to say that he had been holding Territorial Party meetings based on the English language text and had found several areas where the document was unsatisfactory. The only specific deficiency he mentioned was the provision for a single lump sum payment for U.S. land requirements. He stated it had been his initial understanding that a single payment would be made for the initial fifty year lease and that an additional payment would be required should the United States pick up its option for an additional fifty years. However, examination of the document clearly showed that there would be only one payment for the entire hundred years.

Dr. Palacios stated that he had talked to MPSC Vice-Chairman Ben Santos and former MPSC member Herman Q. Guerrero on the morning of the 22nd, urging that an MPSC meeting be called at the earliest possible time to arrive at a joint position concerning the Covenant. He said Santos had not given any indication that a meeting would be called. Palacios added that if a meeting were not held soon, he did not see how the scheduled February 3 meeting with the United States would be possible. (Comment: the reporting officer did not understand this to be a formal statement, but rather the lament of an overworked man who was complaining that there wasn't enough time in the day to complete his work.) Palacios stated, in a much more formal and serious tone, that if agreement were not reached within the MPSC and the necessary changes agreed to, he would not sign the Covenant regardless of what action the rest of the MPSC would take. (Comment: Jim White, MPSC attorney, informed the reporting officer earlier in the day that we could be

Status LNO: DLSchiele:lav 1/24/75

(Drafting Office and Officer)
Clearance: AEBergesen
FORM DS-1254
2-65

UNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

03-411622

OMSN-67

UNCLASSIFIED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2

assured that the February 3 meeting would take place as scheduled, and that the MPSC would have a private, procedural session earlier the same day. White's implication was clearly that the MPSC would not reorganize before that time and that he did not anticipate any meetings before that date. On the morning of January 23, the Deputy Navy LNO said that he had heard the same from Eddie Pangelinan, former MPSC Chairman.)

In what seemed to be an explanation of the possible need for delay, Dr. Palacios spoke of the difference in leadership styles between the United States and the Islands. Americans, he observed, expect their leaders to make decisions on behalf of the community while Micronesians expect their leadership to act in accordance with a previously developed community consensus. Contrary to the American view that a consensus should be developed between the signing and the plebiscite, he stated that he is under pressure not to sign until community doubts have been resolved. Apparently referring to former Senator and MPSC Chairman Pangelinan and to freshman Congressman Rasa, Palacios spoke of the fate of those who disregard traditional needs for developing a consensus prior to taking public positions. The community, he asserted, will tolerate occasional incidents of what would pass in the United States for decisive leadership, but such leadership would not be tolerated over time and new leaders would be found.

UNCLASSIFIED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

411623