

15
65

EEArcher:2-11-75:kkc

SECOND WORKING SESSION - Tuesday, February 11, 1975

(NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT)

Not Present: Ben Santos

E. Pangelinan: We have invited the Ambassador to make remarks concerning separate administration.

Ambassador: We want to make remarks concerning transition planning.

I would like to say the the full implementation of transition planning will not begin until the people have made their voice known. This will be done in complete cooperation with you per your request (reads paper).

Emmett Rice: The joint position (U.S.-Mariana Islands) is that separate administration will be implemented immediately after the vote on the plebiscite (reads paper)

Ambassador: Thank you Emmett. We would entertain certain questions about separate administration, however, first I would like to talk about transition. I would like to propose a substantive amendment to the Ad Hoc Committee Report concerning timing. We would recommend that Phase I program begin after the plebiscite rather than after the signing of the Covenant (reads paper).

Dr. Palacios: I would like to see the details of your plans for separate administration. I would like to see Mr. Rice's comments in writing. Also Mr. Ambassador since the decisions are to affect us, I would like the responsibilities to be mutually shared rather than only to the United States. I do know what happened in Honolulu concerning the land problem and I do not want this to occur again.

03 034122

Ambassador: I believe you misunderstood. Concerning transition period this will be a joint effort and studies will be made by you. In the areas of separate administration, the same is true but the ultimate authority rests with the administering authority. Concerning the land question, a commission spent weeks out here to consult. If you re-read the joint Ad Hoc Committee report you will be reassured.

E. Rice: Dr. Palacios I would like to add that the transition government will be functioning only as long as you like, it is an interim step until your constitution is put into effect.

F. Palacios: Transition government will end in 1980.

Ambassador: No, the transition period is only between the period between the approval of the covenant and the setting up of your elected governor under your constitution under the umbrella of the Trusteeship Agreement.

Oscar Rasa: I would like you to know that politics in the Marianas is very party oriented. The organization for transition planning will effect the future government of the Marianas. We say that party representation in this new organization must be fair and equal. The popular party presently controls the Marianas District Legislature. If we give recommendations for jobs in this new organization on a partisan basis, will you accommodate them?

Ambassador: We have not approached these problems yet on a partisan basis. The U.S. would not want to involve itself in something so internal. I would not close off any consideration of these considerations.

O. Rasa: At the time of separate administration, the Congress of Micronesia will be cut off from the Marianas and the Marianas delegation will be cut off from their work in the Congress of Micronesia. We will be unemployed. We are interested in our political future.

034123

Ambassador: This commission asked us to administer the Marianas separately on a number of occasions. We have taken a position that the Marianas will not be separately administered until after the people vote on the Covenant. I certainly understand your position and we believe that an advance study should be made to accommodate people who will lose their present positions.

Pete Tenorio: To place the record straight, although we requested separate administration, the idea came from the U.S. Concerning the Transition Commission the numbers changed from 9 to 7.

Ambassador: If I said something in the opening remarks to the effect that we want to change the Commission, I apologize, we have no intention to change.

Pete Tenorio: Who will be the Resident Commissioner?

E. Rice: He has not yet been selected.

Pete Tenorio: Will we have an input into the selection of a Commissioner?

Ambassador: The United States will appoint the Resident Commissioner. However, this is why we suggested an advisory commission which will advise on this and other matters. There is no question about the need for additional staff.

Pete Tenorio: Concerning the budget-will it come in as a program or how?

Ambassador: We cannot destroy ongoing programs, but you will have your own budget administered directly by you. As far as the budget for the federal funds, these will be administered under the Resident Commissioner. It will not go through the COM or the Trust Territory.

Pete Tenorio: During the transition period, who sets the budget?

Ambassador: It will probably be higher but certainly no lower than what is presently the pro-rata share of the Marianas Legislature.

Pete Tenorio: What applicable laws will be in effect?

E. Rice: A report should be submitted by April 15 which will take a long look at the TT Code and revise it for a Mariana Islands Code. At the time of separate administration the District Legislature will function as the Congress of Micronesia and can amend this Code.

M. Pangelinan: Is there any way we can accommodate the elected representatives of the Congress of Micronesia under separate administration?

Ambassador: We would welcome your recommendations.

E. Pangelinan: Let's take questions in order--Ben Camacho!

B. Camacho: The COM may place a moratorium on CIP money to the Marianas -

E. Rice: The U.S. will not stand by and see U.S. federal funds unequally distributed.

B. Camacho: Another question. Who will appoint the Secretariat executive?

Ambassador: The Joint Commission will have a direct input in this matter.

J. Cruz: Ambassador said that Phase I programs will come into effect after the plebiscite. The Political Education program is under Phase I.

Ambassador: The United States will take responsibility for funding political education.

J. Cruz: District Legislature will have a voice in approving the interim government? I am concerned that the District Legislature have a voice in the appointment of a District Administrator. I would appoint Juan Sablan or someone other than Frank Ada.

Ambassador: The United States has not made up its mind about personnel and will not without consultation.

E. Rice: This is the reason for a separate administration committee who may wish to make the appointment of District Administrator subject to the advise and consent procedure.

J.Cruz: Concerning Judiciary system?

E. Rice: Arrangements must be made temporarily to place a Marianas Court under the High Court system.

E.Pangelinan: This is a serious question--our present court system is almost two years behind in its calendar.

E. Rice: We are not cast in concrete.

J.Cruz: I wish that Rota and Tinian be involved in the Joint Transition Commission. The paper noted a \$ million request for planning on Tinian. What is this for?

Ambassador: Strictly for planning in accordance with the joint communique.

Ben Manglona: I am not concerned with who is appointed--only that the people of Rota are fully consulted as to who their membership will be. I am also concerned that the District Legislature does not have any membership for Rota. It is time to redesign our policy.

E. Rice: I believe Rota representative should be involved in hold-over committee.

J.Cruz: I am concerned that Mr. Coleman appoints representative people to the Commission. I would like to ask your help in making sure the appointments represent the people.

O. Rasa: Are these recommendations or are these in the final form?

Ambassador: I have made two recommendations this morning--one that the Ad Hoc Committee Report be amended to begin after the separate administration--the other is to change the name from Joint Secretariat to Office of Economic and Transitional Planning. The Commission may submit its

views at any time.

O.Rasa: I wish to see the names of the people of the Commission before I sign the Covenant. This is very important. Another area of concern is the Constitutional Convention--especially who is eligible to vote.

Ambassador: The things you bring up are really internal matters. We are not here to interfere in your internal and constitutional matters. You should take these things up with the Marianas District Legislature who must pass enabling legislation for the Constitutional Convention.

O.Rasa: You give everything to the District Legislature who are not representative of the Territorial Party. You must accommodate partisan politics or we will not sign this covenant.

F. Palacios: Would like to see Secretarial Order saying that a portion of the revenue from the Marianas is to be channeled to the Marianas.

E. Rice: I agree with you.

F. Palacios: I would like to see the minorities protected on Tinian and Rota....

Joe Cruz: Then sign the Covenant!

F. Palacios: I have been a minority many times. But nothing has been done about the Carolinians who are the real underdogs. They have higher death rates and lower per-capita income. I am sorry I have not brought this up before because of our culture where we believe the leaders should take the initiative in seeing that the people are protected.

Ambassador: We are not unmindful of the need for protection of minorities as both the Covenant and the U.S. Constitution show. I would hope that in internal matters the Covenant will be judged on its merits.

M. Sablan: I see we are spending one-half million dollars on Phase I. I am involved in the social-economic planning. This is a stage by stage involvement. My concern is to ensure continuity in planning. I want a study done to identify individuals who will implement the plans. Concerning the Territorial Party, we should not get politics involved in plans as it should be as non-partisan as possible. I believe that if we indentify individuals as professionals who will implement plans so that it will be free from partisan politics. This whole Covenant is based on the assumption that the Constitution will be approved. I would think that things should be delayed until after the District Legislature elections in November. I do not know if this is desirable.

We do not have enough professionals to do this now.

P. Tenorio: You recommended that Phase I be implemented after the plebiscite--what about cost?

Ambassador: I said while you were out that we will bear all the costs for the political education program.

F. Rabauliman: The advisory commission will issue a report to the Interior Department before the executive order is issued?

E. Rice: Yes, the Commission's report will be very important in the drafting of the Secretarial Order.

J. Cruz: The membership will be only five?

E. Rice: This again is not in concrete--there is no problem in enlarging the committee.

M. Pangelinan: Your recommendation is that Phase I will not take place until after the plebiscite?

034127B

Ambassador: The reason is that to set up this commission before the people have spoken is not right. This is the same reason we could not now bow to the wishes of the MPSC on having separate administration at this time.

Pete Tenorio: Who will administer the plebiscite?

Ambassador: The Administering Authority is responsible for the conduct of the plebiscite. We will probably charge the High Commissioner to run the plebiscite. The Marianas Government will certainly have some responsibility. The High Commissioner will have to be advised by a representative committee. A special voter registration commission must be established. We will work with you on making the plebiscite but see ourselves more as resources people.

P.Tenorio: I worried that a rigid time frame on the plebiscite would preclude a well-thought out program.

Ambassador: As you know the timetable was originally set out as you and Dr. Palacios wished. We and you have done a considerable political education program. After all people have been thinking about a political union with the U.S. for twenty-five years.

M.Sablan: In discussing who will be eligible to participate in the plebiscite, will Interior require a guideline on what are the standards for voting? We are establishing here a multi-racial community--people from the other districts who wish to stay here ought to be permitted to vote. My basic question is what constitutes domicile? There is a need to set standards. A formal report should be advanced to the U.S. on the requirements.

H. Willens: I advised the commission that the U.S. has the responsibility for establishing standards in consultation with local leaders. Standards are not yet set.

E. Pangelinan: This has been helpful. Thank you.