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March 28, 1975

Memorandum

To: ~~Mr. Wilson~~  
Capt. Scott

From: M. V. Trent *ml*

Subject: Status of Marianas Plebiscite Project

This memorandum recapitulates the necessary steps in mounting the Marianas Plebiscite and indicates their current status and suggested action.

In this connection, I reaffirm that I will be away from the office March 31 through April 3 (Monday through Thursday) to participate in a seminar on Micronesia at Suomi College, Hancock, Michigan where a number of Micronesian students are enrolled. I can be reached through Dean David Strang at 906-482-5300.

STEPS NECESSARY

STATUS & ACTION

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Clearance of Secretarial Proclamation  | OMSN - to be done through IAG working group                            |
| 2. Clearance of Secretarial Proclamation  | OMSN - to be done through IAG working group                            |
| 3. Appointment of Plebiscite Commissioner and appointment notification to him. Mr. Canham may be reached in Boston at 617-262-2300, ext. 2091 (Office) or 617-247-2123 (Home) | Pending at White House<br>Follow-up required                           |
| 4. Instructions to Status LNO   | Draft Air Mailed to FHW 3/28   |
| 5. Designation of Executive Director (Craley)   | Appointment approved by Hicom 3/26; To be notified by telephone (OMSN) |
| 6. Explanation of duties to Executive Director  | Outline needed (OMSN)  |

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- 7. Preparation of Budget OMSN/Interior to meet 4/1
- 8. Approval on outline of staffing (should be kept somewhat flexible to adjust to views of Plebiscite Commissioner) Tentative outline concurred in by Ricom 3/26
- 9. Briefing of Plebiscite Commissioner OMSN/IO/EA (see below)
- 10. Carrying out of Administrative procedures for Plebiscite Commissioner OMSN/INTERIOR
  - a. Consultant arrangement - ~~from~~
  - b. Travel authorization - including Washington/NY briefing
  - c. Air tickets-first class-for Washington consultation and Saipan duty
  - d. Hotel reservation Honolulu en route - Halekulani Honolulu LMO
  - e. Hotel reservation Guam if schedule required - Hilton Guam LMO or CINCPACREP
  - f. Hotel reservation Saipan - Continental (request adjusted rate)

(If Mr. Canham is appointed, Mrs. Canham will accompany, at his expense.

Reservations should take this into account.)

SUGGESTIONS FOR BRIEFING OF PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER

Mr. Canham, if appointed, is tentatively planning to come to Washington for briefing on Friday, April 4. He will already have the basic documents concerned which I have sent him. These include all the Marianas negotiations transcripts, the Covenant, negotiating history, technical agreement, Trusteeship Agreement, the latest United States Government report to the United Nations on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (1973) and some assorted tourist-type information on Micronesia including a map.

The Plebiscite Commissioner, whoever he is, will of course need some thorough briefing to include the following subjects:

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1. Political situation in Micronesia;
2. The local situation in the Northern Marianas including names and positions of people whom he will meet in the discharge of his duties; (A suggested list is attached.)
3. Summary of status negotiations with JCFS;
4. United Nations concerns and responsibilities;
5. Background and explanation as required of procedures outlined in the Secretarial Order; and
6. Administrative relationships - TTPI Headquarters, Marianas District Government.

OMSN would have principal responsibility for coordinating the briefings.

Responsible officers from other agencies to participate in setting up briefings would be:

State : IO-Molly Williamson (who says Ambassador Buffon, Assistant Secretary for IO, wishes to have time with the Plebiscite Commissioner)  
EA-Jack Knowles or Howard Lang

Defense :

Interior : DOTA - Emmett Rice  
(other?)

Justice : LC - Herman Marcuse

It is recommended, and Mr. Canham agrees, that consultation also be arranged with USUN. Ambassador White would presumably be responsible for arrangements there. I understand that she would be available from April 7.

Mary Vance Trent

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