

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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April 14, 1975

Memorandum

To : Mr. Knowles, EA/ANP
From : Capt. Scott, OMSN
Subject : Funding for Plebiscite in the Northern Mariana Islands

Funding is urgently required for the plebiscite in the Northern Marianas, now announced by the Secretary of the Interior for June 17. Such funding would cover all relevant expenses including those of the Plebiscite Commissioner who has been designated by the President in line with recommendations from members of the Interagency Working Group on Micronesia.

The plebiscite is being held in fulfillment of the responsibility of the United States as Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Observers from the United Nations are expected to be present to witness the plebiscite and as much of the pre-plebiscite activities as their time permits.

Cost of the plebiscite and its related education program is estimated at \$50,000. This is a unique expense, not chargeable as an item in the Trust Territory budget. Breakdown of this sum including tentative staffing pattern is given in the attachment to this memorandum. It is to be noted that definitive staffing will depend on the Plebiscite Commissioner to whom the Secretarial Order has given considerable discretion in this regard within a general budgetary framework.

The Plebiscite Education Program under supervision of the Plebiscite Commissioner, the Voter Registration, and the actual voting will make use insofar as possible of Trust Territory Administration personnel who will be given administrative leaves with uninterrupted salary to fill these duties. However, the Consultant fee and expenses of the Plebiscite Commissioner and staff, travel expenses, materials and supplies and other outside hire as may be necessary amount to the estimated \$50,000 cost.

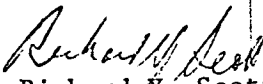
Of that amount, the Department of the Interior has assumed responsibility for one-half, or \$25,000. I feel that it would be politically inadvisable to consider defraying any part of this amount from the Trust Territory budget since that budget is subject to scrutiny by the Congress of Micronesia which could be expected to oppose vigorously such diversions of funds to facilitate the separate Marianas Status choice. Similarly, I feel that the Department of Defense would not be suitable source of funds since the Covenant is being opposed in part as a DOD-inspired program.

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Use of DOD money could well incite further opposition.

I hope the Department of State will give urgent favorable consideration to this request for \$25,000 to cover one-half of the estimated cost of holding the plebiscite.


Richard A. Scott

Attachment

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NORTHERN MARIANAS PLEBISCITE

Estimated Budget

	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Plebiscite Commissioner		
Consultant fee (based on 80 days)	\$11,500	
Per diem (Consultation Washington and New York plus duty in Saipan)		\$ 3,300
Consultation travel (U.S.)		\$ 200
Round trip - Boston-Saipan		\$ 3,100
Executive Director (TTPI Staff)	No cost	
Travel and per diem		\$ 300
Secretary (American, locally hired)	\$ 1,500	
Plebiscite Education Program		
Program Administrator (TT Staff)	No cost	
Information Specialist (U.S.)	\$ 3,000	
Travel and per diem		\$ 3,600
Information specialists (local)	No cost	\$ 200
Broadcasting--radio/TV		
Publications/printing		
Schools and Community relations		
Staff	No cost	\$ 200
Translator (Chamorro)		
Translator (Carolinian)		
Secretary (trilingual)		
Local travel and per diem		\$ 2,300
	\$16,000	\$13,200

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	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
	\$16,000	\$13,200
Plebiscite Advisory Committee		
Secretary	No cost	
Travel and per diem		\$ 500
Voter Registration Board		
Executive Officer	No cost	
Secretary	No cost	
Clerk	No cost	
Travel and per diem		\$ 3,000
Program and materials		
Commissioner's office		
Materials and supplies		\$ 1,000
Travel and per diem		\$ 1,500
Representation		\$ 500
Transportation (ship and/or air transport to northern islands)		\$ 4,000
Plebiscite Advisory Committee	No cost	
Office rental		\$ 1,300
Publications and notices		\$ 1,000
Voter Registration Board		
Materials and supplies		\$ 2,000
Plebiscite Education Program		
Publications		\$ 6,000
	<u>\$16,000</u>	<u>\$34,000</u>
		\$16,000
Total		<u>\$50,000</u>