

FHWilliams/cg/4/25/75
MESSAGE ON RENEGOTIATIONS

Sen. Tenorio

I am authorized by the President and by Secretary Morton to respond to your message of _____ as follows:

The Commonwealth Covenant which was approved and signed by the MPSC and by the U.S. on February 15, 1975 will be submitted to the people of the Northern Marianas in exactly its present form as negotiated. The next step is to give the people the free choice on June 17, 1975 to accept or reject the Commonwealth Covenant and political union with the United States which their duly elected and appointed representatives negotiated pursuant to their mandate.

The United States wishes to make it clear that the signed Covenant is not subject to revision, amendment or renegotiation. If it is approved by 55% of the registered voters the Covenant will then be submitted to the Congress of the United States in exactly the same form as it is being presented to the people of the Northern Marianas to be either approved or disapproved but not to be amended by either the House or the Senate.

To repeat, the signed Covenant is to be presented to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Congress of the United States for a yes or no vote in its entirety as it now stands. As you know it is the result of more than 2 years of careful study and review and patient negotiation. The positions taken by the United States as reflected in the Covenant were arrived at only after careful consultation within and between the executive and legislative branches of the United States Government and only after full consideration of the views of the MPSC and the interests

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PROPOSED REVISION OF PAGE 2

~~Some USIS ...~~

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of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. ~~As it stands the~~
~~Covenant represents the maximum position and conditions the United States~~
~~is willing to offer the Northern Mariana Islands in satisfaction of its~~
~~desire to become a self-governing member of the American political family.~~

~~On the other hand~~ If the Commonwealth Covenant is rejected by the
people in the June 17 plebiscite the United States expects that the
Northern Marianas will remain a part of Micronesia and that it will be
seeking an alternative future political status in political union with
the other districts of the TTPI. If the Marianas people prefer a common
future with the other districts the United States will respect these
wishes and will proceed accordingly as it moves toward the termination
of the Trusteeship Agreement.

~~If sometime in the future, before or after agreement is reached on
the future political status for all of Micronesia, the Northern Marianas
were to consider and were to request once again separate negotiations leading
to a status separate from the other districts of the TTPI, there would
have to be another clear indication that such a move had the strong support
of the people and that some reasonable basis to assume that a satisfactory
agreement could be reached. The United States decision as to whether it
would be willing to enter into any new negotiations with the Northern
Marianas would depend in part on these two factors and other then existing
circumstances.~~

The 13 questions for which you have requested answers were thoroughly
covered during the course of the negotiations. Detailed answers are, however,
in preparation and will be forwarded soonest. I hope that the explanation

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will provide an authoritative basis for an understanding of the issues raised by your list of questions.

08-2832

Memo

From the Desk of:

Howard P. Willens

4/25/73

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Embassador Ullmann:

Trouble in getting attention at White House. Intend to meet w/ President + Kinniger to get approval. Hurry thru. May be a few days late - May 9, 10 etc.

Ullmann intend to be in Hawaii next week + then go to Madrid meeting in May.

Intend to call Eddie.

Necessary to get White House clearance on 4, 5 major points.

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