

03  
615

UN  
(inv)  
HW

FOR THE FILES

July 3, 1975

Subject: Public Information Concerning Marianas Status  
Negotiations

The attached memorandum on the above subject was prepared in answer to a request from USUN for some urgent information to help rebut the charges which UNTC mission chairman Murray reported receiving from "dissident Americans" on Saipan to the effect that the people of the Marianas couldn't vote intelligently on the Covenant because they had been kept in the dark throughout the negotiations and did not have sufficient time to digest the complicated materials made available during the too-brief plebiscite education program. The memo was transmitted to USUN by IO datafax on June 27.

MVTrent

03/5  
01 W

June 27, 1975

To: Jay Katzen, USUN  
From: Mary Vance Trent, OMSN  
Subj: Public information concerning Marianas Status  
Negotiations

Attached to this memorandum are copies of the transcripts of the session of the negotiations between the United States and the Marianas Political Status Commission, beginning in December 1972 and concluding with the signing of the Commonwealth Covenant on February 15, 1975. As you will note, each report contains the texts of speeches made by both sides at plenary public meetings and of joint communiques issued at the conclusion of the sessions. The public meetings were of course open to any who wished to attend. They were widely announced beforehand by press and radio; the proceedings were carried live on radio and extensively reported in the press by local reporters who attended. Translations were customarily provided. Additionally, as is also evident in the attached publications, press releases were issued from time to time to report current developments during the sessions. During each session, delegation members were available at regular times to press and radio reporters. Copies of these transcript publications were distributed throughout the Marianas after each session.

Perhaps most important of all channels used by both sides, and often jointly, during the sessions over the more than two-year period of negotiations, were the informal public

03 034974

meetings and gatherings held at various times on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Notable among these was a seven-hour marathon on Tinian in May, 1973, when the U.S. Delegation headed by Ambassador F. Haydn Williams and the MPSC jointly invited the people of Tinian to meet with them. It was a free and frank question and answer session in the best open town-hall tradition. Full translation of the proceedings was given concurrently.

Over the years of negotiation, the MPSC met with schools, businessmen, farmers and other interested groups in fulfillment of its intention to publicize widely the course of the negotiations while they were under way. In this effort to keep the people of the Northern Marianas currently informed, members of the U.S. delegation including the Status Liaison Officer resident on Saipan, participated on many occasions, and regularly supplied information both as a matter of initiative and in reply to press and other queries.