

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

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January 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM

To: Ambassador F. Haydn Williams  
From: Adrian de Graffenried  
Subj: \$1.5 million transition funds

Attached is a memorandum which DOTA forwarded to our office only yesterday.

Jim Berg indicated to you yesterday that Congressional appropriation of the \$1.5 million transition funds may not be available until "...late spring", but suggested that alternative approaches may be explored by DOTA to assure that the \$1.5 million transition funds will be available upon Congressional approval of the Covenant. You indicated that DOTA should ensure that these funds be made available immediately upon approval of the Covenant.

To assure that OMSN views on the \$1.5 million are reasserted to the Department of the Interior, I have attached a draft memorandum from you to Secretary Kleppe.

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AdeGraffenried:1-21-76:kkc

To: Secretary of the Interior Kleppe  
From: Ambassador F. Haydn Williams  
Subj: \$1.5 million transition funds for Northern Mariana  
Islands

I have reviewed with some concern the January 15, 1976 memorandum to DOTA from the Deputy Assistant Secretary - Program Development and Budget, which is attached for your attention.

As you know, the United States is committed to providing transition funds to the Northern Mariana Islands for local self-government upon approval of the Commonwealth Covenant. At this time, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate Interior and Foreign Relations Committees have approved the Covenant. Final action in the Congress on the Covenant is expected in early February after the Senate Armed Services Committee completes its review.

Upon approval of the Covenant the Northern Marianas will be ready to draft a Constitution and begin the phased transition into a U.S. Commonwealth territory. Funds have been authorized to meet these transition costs and with your assistance, an appropriation item is included as a FY-76 supplemental in the Interior Department's FY-77 annual budget request.

Despite prospects for approval of the Covenant in February, the memorandum from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Development and Budget indicates that no transition funds for the Northern Marianas would be appropriated "...until late spring". To enable the U.S. to meet its commitments to the Northern Mariana

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Islands and to facilitate an orderly administration by the Department of the Interior for the Northern Mariana Islands, I request that you expedite whatever action may be required to assure that transition funds for the Northern Mariana Islands will be available upon approval of the Covenant.

I remain available to be of any assistance in this matter that you may desire.

VTY.,

FHW

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