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KEY FACTORS IN NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TRANSITION AND SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION

Joint Transition Commission

- The Joint Transition Commission provides broad policy guidance and serves as liaison between the U.S. Government and the Marianas leadership so as to coordinate their efforts and thoughts on transition.

- As regards J.T.C. membership, the U.S. and the MPSC agreed there would be an eight or nine member Commission - five representatives from the Mariana Islands and four from the United States.

-- U.S. members on the Joint Transition Commission would be the Director, Office of Territorial Affairs, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, and the U.S. Resident Commissioner for the Northern Mariana Islands, tentatively leaving the remaining position unfilled.

-- Northern Mariana Islands members would be the Chairman of the MPSC, President of the Marianas District Legislature, two MPSC members from each of Rota and Tinian, and the District Administrator for the NMI or an at large member from the NMI.

Office of Transition Studies and Plans

- The Joint Transition Commission would appoint a director and a deputy director of the Office of Transition Studies and Plans (OTSP) and identify other key personnel.

- The job descriptions for the OTSP have been reviewed and approved by the Personnel Office of the Department of the Interior.

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- Additional criteria for personnel should be set.
- Personnel should be contracted who also have an intimate knowledge of and experience with the status negotiations.
- OTSP should also resolve salary schedules.

Function of OTSP

- OTSP would implement the broad transition policies set by the JTC.
- OTSP would be empowered to undertake specific studies and analyses as are necessary.
- In this regard, vest broad supervisory authority with the Office and its director.
- The OTSP will be physically located in Saipan.
- Should be sufficient operational guidance from the almost daily liaison between the director and the Marianas members of the JTC, and the U.S. Resident Representative.
- Authorize the Status LNO in Saipan to act as OMSN representative to the JTC should OMSN participation be required.
- Studies to be conducted by the OTSP touch on economic development, governmental organization, physical infrastructure and the basic legislative program required for the new NMI Government.

Phase I Funding

- Phase I is to begin with approval of the Covenant.
- The NMI Transition monies must be available upon approval of the Covenant.
- As regards expenditure of the transitional funds after approval of

the Covenant, these monies will be used in two basic areas:

-- (1) to meet the expenses of the OTSP;

-- (2) the expenses of the Constitutional Convention and preparation of initial legislation for the new NMI Government under its Constitution.

- U.S. Resident Commissioner will have responsibility for management of funds allocable to the OTSP.

- The NMI is to establish a mechanism for management of funds to be made available for their ConCon and legislative program.

- Should insure there is provision for strict accountability of funds to the U.S. Congress.