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DRAFT/AdeGraffenried/cg/2/25/76

MEMORANDUM

To : Ambassador F. Haydn Williams
From : Adrian de Graffenried
Subject : DOTA/OMSN Liaison

This memorandum is intended to bring to your attention some liaison difficulties arising between OMSN and DOTA, especially as regards separate administration for the Northern Mariana Islands.

You have asked that I act as your representative for NMI transition matters, inasmuch as the initial concepts and agreements on this matter were negotiated between the U.S. and the MPSC during the course of the Commonwealth status negotiations. In part, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transition was formally adopted by the U.S./MPSC during Round IV.

DOTA has undertaken primary responsibility for NMI transition. Liaison between DOTA and OMSN on this subject was a key requirement in assuring a coordinated U.S. policy on this matter. However, I note the following:

1. DOTA undertook to chair the COM/MPSC discussion on separate administration last fall;
 - a. No memcon of those meetings has yet been forwarded to OMSN although such a memorandum was promised;
 - b. OMSN was able to obtain a copy of the final agreement between the COM/MPSC only by direct contact with the representatives of the MPSC

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and direct contact with attorneys for these groups;

c. OMSN was not kept abreast on the daily status of these meetings (an update memorandum was sent but only directly to you and only upon final conclusion of the meetings, essentially blocking any OMSN input into the discussions).

2. The Secretarial Order for separate administration of the NMI was initially drafted on September 5, 1975. DOTA redrafted the Order after consultations with the COM and MPSC on October 2, 1975 and again on February 6, 1976.

a. OMSN was not informed of the new draft changes;

b. OMSN was assured by DOTA representatives that the latest draft Secretarial Order on separate administration was that found in the Coleman Report of September 5, 1975.

3. DOTA has scheduled meetings with the NMI on separate administration for Friday, February 27, 1975.

a. OMSN was not informed officially;

b. OMSN has not been invited to attend.

4. OMSN has had to initiate contact with DOTA on all separate administration matters. Because there has been no advance discussions by DOTA with OMSN on this subject, OMSN has not had:

a. The information needed to ask any questions about such policy discussions;

b. The opportunity to provide input; and

c. The opportunity to obtain the results of policies set in such meetings.

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These few illustrative examples seem to indicate that a more closely coordinated effort should be established. I recommend that you discuss these matters with DOTA and some more effective channel be established to reinstate the reciprocal flow of information and staff support.

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