

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Participants: Committee of Interagency Territorial Assistance

Date and Place: October 21, 1976 - Department of the Interior

Fred Zeder opened the conference saying that there is a need to coordinate the activities of the various federal agencies in the Northern Marianas. He said that the U.S. presence in the Pacific will be greatly diminished in 1981, and the U.S. should be working toward winding down federal programs by that date. Emmett Rice later noted that the 1981 deadline is not sacred but Zeder then remarked that his intention is to convince the Micronesians that the date is sacred and that the USG role will change at that time.

Brewster Chapman discussed Sections 502(a)(1) and 703(a) of the Covenant which relate to federal programs in the Marianas. He noted that under the former section all programs available to Guam will be applicable to the Marianas without further action while under the latter section, programs ongoing in other U.S. territories may be extended to the Marianas providing that implementing legislation is passed. Since the Section 502 programs go into effect 180 days after approval of a Marianas' Constitution, the question was raised about when this might be. Eddie Pangelinan estimated that the ConCon would be working for the next two months before coming up with a document; following three months of educating the voters, a referendum would be held; if the Constitution were approved, six months thereafter the federal programs would be available. Zeder urged the representatives of the various agencies to think in terms of starting these programs in the Marianas early in FY 78.

Zeder asked that each of the representatives submit by November 30 a listing of the programs applicable to the Marianas, a brief description of each, and the approximate cost. He noted that with 1026 programs currently in effect, there has never been a compilation of all these activities. Interior should be the focal point, and these programs ought to be coordinated through DOTA.

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