

H. M. ...

OFFICE OF TRANSITION STUDIES AND PLANNING
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. BOX 42
SAIPAN, AMERICAN MARIANAS 96950



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members May 4, 1977
U.S.-Marianas Joint Commission on Transition

FROM: Director, OTSP

SUBJECT: Agreed Action Items

Based on decisions and recommendations made by the members of the Joint Commission during its most recent meeting in Washington, I suggest that the following actions be taken prior to the next meeting of the Commission, or as soon as possible thereafter.

1. Early implementation of certain parts of the consultant's studies, i.e. prior to final review or in advance of Constitutional Government in the NMI.

Action - OTSP, based on consultation with the ResCom and the NML.

2. Further review of Federal programs and initiation of action to expedite the application of those selected as particularly important. This work would utilize the survey done by the Institute for International Law and Economic Development (ILED) and the inter-agency Committee on Federal Programs chaired by DOTA.

Action - OTSP, until the Executive Branch of the GNMI is able to assume this task; although in certain areas the OTA in conjunction with the OTSP Liaison Officer in Washington should take the initiative or carry the main burden of action.

3. Determination of the eligibility of the GNMI for "start-up" funds to initiate certain federal programs. In some cases a legal determination will be required prior to the submission of an application for assistance, for neither the statutes in question nor the Covenant are clear on this issue.

Action - OTSP, Washington Liaison Officer in consultation with appropriate legal authorities in the U.S. Executive Branch, supported by OTA and its legal advisors.

4. Upgrading of the quality of data, reporting, required by Federal program grant applications. It is clear that critical census type data covering the NMI is either lacking or of questionable quality and that a substantial effort will be required if the requirements of a large number of potentially valuable Federal Programs are to be met, including the monitoring of these programs once they are initiated. The survey by the ILED indicates some of these requirements.

Action - ResCom, with advice and assistance from OTSP and its expert consultants.

5. Early activation of the Joint Commission on Federal Laws; pursuant to Section 504 of the Covenant - appointment of members, recruiting of a professional staff and obtaining requisite funds.

Action - OTA and NML, with OTA taking responsibility for funding and organizational aspects and the NML assuming responsibility for nominating the NMI members of the Commission. The OTSP Washington Liaison Officer should provide the link between the NML and the OTA during the organizational phase of this project.

6. Early establishment of a U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Action - OTSP Washington Liaison Officer, supported by Mr. Howard Willens of the Washington law firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering.

7. U. S. action on the proposed constitution of the NMI.

Action - OTA, with whatever support it requires from NMI political leaders, including the OTSP Washington Liaison Officer.

8. Planning for the American Memorial Park on Saipan.

Action - OTA who will task other interested U.S. agencies in the DOI - Parks and Recreation Division - and in DOD.

9. Improved OTSP public information program.

Action - OTSP.

10. Visits by OTSP consultants to Rota, Tinian and the Northern Islands - need to increase contacts through longer and better organized visits.

Action - OTSP and its consultants.

All Joint Commission Members

Page 3

May 4, 1977

11. Audit of OTSP accounts.

Action - Federal Comptroller's office on Guam via OTA.

12. Special Physical Planning recommendations regarding Rota and Tinian.

Action - OTSP, supported by PPDC.

13. Need to upgrade services on Tinian in anticipation of U.S. military presence; e.g. school system.

Action - OTSP to make recommendations to Joint Commission, ResCom and to NML.

14. Role of ResCom Planning Officer - detailing of planner to OTSP.

Action - ResCom and OTSP.

15. Disposal or status of TT property in the NMI, mainly on Saipan - need to reach agreement re its disposition.

Action - OTA, which will direct TTG and ResCom to take appropriate action.

16. Funding of new hospital for NMI, i.e. determination of source of funds.

Action - OTA, based on appropriate documentation from ResCom/OTSP.

17. Construction of new jail.

Action - OTA and ResCom.

18. Inter-island transport - need to establish regular or reliable shipping service between Saipan, Tinian and Rota - e.g. allocation of LCU type vessel to NM in lieu of a Militobi type vessel.

Action - OTA/ResCom/TTG

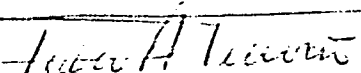
19. Preparations for next meeting of the J.C.

Action - OTSP.

The above action recommendations are based on informal notes which I took during the two-day meeting; consequently, I would appreciate your agreement with or comments on the proposed actions listed above.

All Joint Commission Members
Page 4
May 4, 1977

I look forward to your early response.


Pedro A. Tenorio

xc: Marianas/Washington LNO
Howard Willens, Esq. ✓
Mr. Paul J. Bennett, Status LNO

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