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JMW:mm1:7/25/74 WHITE HOUSE STATIONERY

Richard L. Sneider
etc.

*Dep: Asst Sec
EA*

Dear Dick:

Before my departure for the last informal round of negotiations in Guam a copy of the Bureau's compliance report of May 8, 1974, on the inspection of Saipan was made available to me on an informal basis. The introductory section of that report notes that implementation of the recommended reorganization of the Saipan Office will be temporarily withheld and the situation reviewed in about 60 days with a view to establishing an implementation date at that time. I have now had an opportunity to discuss this aspect of the report with Ambassador Williams against the background of my letter to you of April 19, 1974, and our more recent conversations on the subject.

Ambassador Williams has asked me to assure the Department that there is certainly no objection from his standpoint to implementation of the inspectors' recommendations regarding reorganization of the Saipan Office once the current status negotiations have passed their present critical stage. We are hopefully very near the completion of negotiations both with the Marianas Political Status Commission and the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Political Status. Until they are signed, however, every resource should be devoted as a matter of priority to advancing the principal goal established by the President and the Under Secretaries Committee of completing these negotiations successfully in the shortest feasible period of time.

By deliberate design the organization of the Status Liaison Office in Saipan is directed towards the fulfillment of this purpose, serving primarily as the local representative and the eyes and ears of the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations. While much will still have to be done by the Status Lisison Office in shepherding the agreements through the local approval process after their signature, there will then be much more room for other activities and responsibilities, and it would clearly be appropriate at that time to give the office the greater breadth and responsibility proposed in the reorganization plan.

I am sure the Bureau will wish to keep these views of Ambassador Williams' in mind in considering its further response to the Report of the Foreign Service Inspectors.

Sincerely yours,

J.M. Wilson, Jr.
USDRFMSN

