

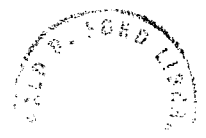
1 - RYS
2 - JMW *[Signature]*

JMW:mm1:8/15/74

SOME THOUGHTS ON SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION

1. MDL will probably get around to this subject next week after Willens has had a chance to report and discuss matter further with leadership.
2. While Willens appeared firm on subject when he left here, leadership (particularly Pangelinan and Santos) may have had second thoughts since Guam discussions last month. In any event we need to be clear on exactly what is their understanding of scenario.
3. Accordingly probably useful for F.H. Williams to call E. Pangelinan before end of this week and discuss this over the phone. Could be combined with general chat on other topics as well, such as work of land committee, drafting committee progress, date of next meeting, reactions to COM special session, etc. Better than letter which could be misconstrued as U.S. initiative on subject of separate administration rather than Marianas' initiative.
4. Passage by COM of intemperate, controversial Resolution on separate administration makes some kind of early action by U.S. almost inevitable. Believe, however, that U.S. response might be in two bites, first a mild response correcting defects in Secretarial Order 2918 and simply relieving COM of any exclusive responsibility it might claim for Marianas' status matters. Full separation of administration could come later. In any event for both of these need MDL action well before ~~next meetings with~~

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~~Marianas Political Status Commission and Joint Committee on Future Status~~ and next regular session of COM. HICOM's inquiries to TT Cabinet indicate no major problems there though several understandable technical difficulties.

5. Suggest therefore Commission and MDL consider request to USG (Secretary of the Interior) for action by USG to separate Marianas district administratively from other districts of TTPI to include:

- Separation of executive functions under the administrative authority of the U.S.
 - Non-Participation of Marianas District in further activities of COM, and COM to be relieved of further responsibility for Marianas' affairs.
 - Arrangements for separate financial support and retention of revenues in Marianas.
 - Relocation of capital from Marianas to another district.
 - Proportionate fair share of TT common property.
 - Preparations for separate Marianas Constitutional Convention.
 - Separation to take effect as soon as possible with timing determined by the USG in consultation with MDL and MPSC.
6. Inform E. Pangelinan that U.S. still inclined to agree with proposal from him and Santos in Guam that best time /^{for separate administration order} would be immediately after Marianas plebiscite on new

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commonwealth agreement, which should precede Micronesian CONCON and would be held next spring if new agreement signed this fall and approved by MDL. Shorter, simpler order clipping COM wings on Marianas status matters may have to come earlier, perhaps when the new commonwealth agreement is signed in the fall.

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CLEARED: J. BERG

