

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

March 12, 1975

March 13 Meeting with the Marianas Political Status Commission
Leaders and Counsel

AGENDA ITEM I.- Response to Senator Hart Release

- Circulation of MNS story (attached)
- Response from Marianas side.
 - Desirability of joint statement by Pangelinan & Tenorio.
 - Content
 - Distortion of facts
 - Personal attacks on MPSC members.
 - Anti-military bias
 - True views of people of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.
 - Distribution
 - Media
 - Congress
 - MPSC meetings with Senators
- Response on U.S. side.
 - Desirability of statements by Congressmen.
 - Jackson and others.
 - Democrats vs. Republicans
 - Muted Executive Branch response with stand-by statement for release if queried saying:
 - Unfortunate that Hart apparently acted in advance of having all the facts and certainly the most recent facts especially on military plans.
 - Hart statement therefore not responsive to situation as it actually is.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 11 (MNS)

Senator Gary Hart, (D-Colorado), said Sunday, (March 9) he is attempting to rally support to block measure aimed at converting the Mariana Islands from a United Nations Trusteeship to a "United States Military Colony," according to a recent United Press International (UPI) story.

"The only reason the Ford Administration wants to take control of these tranquil islands, against the wishes of the Legislature of Micronesia, is to build additional, enormously expensive bases in the Pacific," Hart said. "But the Congress and the American people have never been asked what they think of this idea."

Hart said, a measure to be considered in the Senate soon provides \$1.5 million to aid in converting the sparsely populated chain of islands, and was included in a bill to increase housekeeping money for this fiscal year for Micronesia.

He said he would offer an amendment to the bill that would delete the "takeover provisions." "There is lot wrong with this scheme," he said. "It is appalling that the United States of America would involve itself in this type of archaic policy."

Hart said the Administration had planned a timetable calling for an election to be held in June for Marianas citizens to determine whether they want to become American citizens.

"Right after the election, the Pentagon plans to set up a new United States-Administered Government and then approach the Congress to ask approval for the takeover," Hart said.

According to the timetable established in the Commonwealth Compact signed last month between Marianas and U.S. Negotiators, the U.S. will not begin leasing



or controlling land in the islands until full Commonwealth Status is established. That has been estimated by Franklin Haydn Williams, the Chief U.S. Negotiator, to be about 1980.



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AGENDA ITEM II - Administration Views on S-326

- Favored bill strongly prior to Johnston amendment.
- Latter came as surprise and wholly without consultation.
 - Learned of it indeed only on Monday.
 - Apologies for being ill-informed.
- Proposed position and tactics.
 - Administration clearly opposes Johnston amendment since it would be contrary to promises made to MPSC and would make supplemental treatment meaningless (whole idea was to get early start).
 - At same time most important consideration is favorable action by U.S. Congress on Covenant; and if Johnston amendment becomes condition precedent for such approval, believe we could live with it without liking it.
 - Bierne advice to let S-326 go through Senate (where he expects no real trouble from Hart et al on this basis) and work on House to remove Johnston amendment in conference.
 - Burton view that if Marianas wants this it should have it.
 - Administration tactic:
 - To work on Burton and his subcommittee to put in full \$1.5 million with only restriction that it can be released only after favorable vote in plebiscite.
 - Will put this also on public record as part of forthcoming hearings.
 - MPSC and Counsel can help by seeing Burton and impressing on him need for early availability of \$1.5 million--Also Won Pat and Mink.
 - All to take positive position in forthcoming appropriations hearings with Ambassador Williams to see Sid Yates beforehand and MPSC to do the same privately.

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AGENDA ITEM III - Program for Pangelinan and Tenorio

- People for Pangelinan and Tenorio to see on Hill.

- Purposes

- Preliminary support for Covenant with
influential Congressmen.

- "Truth Squad" to follow Rasa and Mafnas.

- Key Congressmen - House

- Burton

- Mink

- Won Pat

- Meeds

- Ketchum

- Clausen

- Yates (?)

- de Lugo (?)

- Benitez (?)

- Key Senators

- Jackson

- Johnston

- Fannin

- McClure

- Buckley (?)

- R. Byrd (?)

- Stennis (?)

- Interior and Appropriations staff
 - House - Winkel, Harrison,
 - Senate - Bierne, Haygood, Loesch.
- Burton briefing - Early April
 - Public presentation but not a hearing
 - Pangelinan and Tenorio to be aboard
 - Others from MPSC?
- Possible meeting with President
 - Media impact
 - Appropriate, short remarks to stress:
 - Long desire of Marianas for union.
 - Went along with TT until COM turned down U.S. Commonwealth offer and asked for looser relationship.
 - Principle involved is fundamental right of self-determination, which will be freely exercised in U.N. observed plebiscite.
- Other possible contacts
 - Call on Tom Hughes (Carnegie) (?)
 - T.V. Appearances
 - Today (?)
 - Meet the Press (?)
 - Newspaper interviews
 - Washington press