

## INTERVIEW OF MARY VANCE TRENT

by Howard P. Willens and Deanne C. Siemer

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- Willens: Mary Vance Trent served as the status liaison officer in the Trust Territory for a period of two years in the early 1970s. She has very generously agreed to provide some time as well as her insights regarding her duties and observations while in Micronesia. Mary, thank you very much. I wonder if we could begin by your telling us something about your educational background and how you joined the Foreign Service.
- Trent: Well, I'll be very glad to. I think I have to point to the fact that I had the great good fortune of coming from a family that was very interested in international affairs. My father was a great supporter of the League of Nations and Woodrow Wilson back in those days. So I grew up with conversations around the dinner table on subjects of international interest.
- Siemer: Where was your family from?
- Trent: They were a southern family from Tennessee and Arkansas but had come up to Indiana, so I grew up in Indianapolis. My father had at one point been on the faculty of Indiana University in Bloomington and then we moved up to Indianapolis. Eventually he left that profession and settled into Indianapolis business. So I grew up there.
- Willens: What was his field of academic interest?
- Trent: Economics. He was working on his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. He did not complete it, however. So International Economics was the background there.
- Willens: How about your mother?
- Trent: My mother had been a teacher, as young women were growing up in that era. They were both from long-time southern families, all of whom had worn the grey uniform in the Civil War. So when they came to live up in Wisconsin, where actually I was born, it was like going to Siberia. It was a very unusual experience. I have no recollection of that. We left the far north when I was six months old. But I did grow up in the Middle West, and I grew up in the isolationist period in the Middle West, so that we were rather intellectually isolated from a number of people. We had lots of awfully good friends as long as we didn't get too deep into politics. We also (because of this international interest in my family) had many visitors from abroad. My father was chairman of the Indiana Council on International Relations. So I just felt without even thinking about it particularly consciously that I wanted someday to go into something that had a connection with international affairs.
- Willens: Where were you educated?
- Trent: Well I went there in Indianapolis to Butler University. The Depression years came in and rather curtailed some education plans. But I'm completely and eternally grateful for the education that I had there at Butler. Excellent people who certainly sponsored and promoted my interest along this line.
- Willens: When did you graduate from Butler?
- Trent: 1937.
- Willens: What was your field of study?

- Trent: History and political science, but with a degree in history.
- Willens: Did you have an interest upon graduation of going into the Foreign Service?
- Trent: Yes, but what I had to do first was earn something to get bread and butter on the table. We had some rather severe problems during the Depression years, and this meant that I really had to take whatever job I could find quickly. I had a job during my college years doing some historical research that helped to support things. I then went to teach at the Orchard Country Day School in Indianapolis where I had gone as a child. I taught for two years there, seventh and eighth grade, but with an emphasis really on history, which I was of course personally interested in. Then I went to teach at a school in St. Louis, Missouri, the Principia. It was an upper school, meaning high school. I taught there for five years, teaching what we modestly called Civilization, which meant participating in a blended course with the english faculty and history faculty, and I represented the history part of it.
- Willens: That was during the World War II years, then?
- Trent: Yes. By this time it was 1944. So in June 1944, although I had been offered a contract for the following year at Principia, I came to the conclusion that this was the moment to break out of this. I'd been able to sort of exist and live and to enjoy these years along the way, but I'm going to head for Washington and just see what goes. So I came to Washington without a job, but of course I knew something could be found in 1944. They needed anybody who could do anything. But I felt well, I'm going to wait around and not just go into the first thing, because there is something that's going to help forward and feed or give me some opportunity in this field where I more and more realized I was interested in participation. I got so interested in the thought of building something post-war, and the whole United Nations concept was of course being developed. So I learned through a friend of a new division that was being set up in the State Department that was called Public Liaison. The point to the Public Liaison Division was to try to avoid the errors of the whole League of Nations episode when the public didn't really know what this was all about. This was to prepare the American public and elicit from the American public views on what this post-war organization was going to be. By 1944, we were out of the woods. There was pain left to be experienced, but we were going to come out on top in the war. Of course the Dumbarton Oaks Conference took place here and the United Nations was being developed. So I was absolutely thrilled that even at a very beginning junior kind of level, I was going to have a little part in this development of the United Nations.
- Willens: Did you have to take an exam to get into the Foreign Service?
- Trent: That's coming. I did indeed. The exam had been suspended during the war years, but of course I knew it existed and I wanted to go for that. So when it was reinstated in I guess it must have been the fall of 1944, I signed up to take it. The exam in those years was three days long, and the applicants had to go to what we then called a 10 cents store on F Street downtown. There was a big bare room above Kresge's or Woolworth's or whatever this 10 cents store was, unheated, and we sat there in November for three days taking this Foreign Service exam.
- Siemer: How many people were there?
- Trent: Well I don't know. I should think there were probably about 30 or so in this room, but that's a very unreliable statistic. I was so focused on this that I just don't remember that at all. And it was given in other parts of the country, but this was the Washington place. So I took it, and it took a while of course for results. Well, by one point I missed the

French exam. In those days you had to take the whole thing all over again. The entire three days. So I thought my goodness, I'm close to it and I really think this is something and I can surely whip this French exam into place. So I did some more studying of course. And when it was reopened (now I'm not too sure about when it was), I took it again. In the meantime (and I didn't get any results) I was working at the State Department all this time. So one wonderful unforgettable night in December 1945 toward the end of December (as the story will tell, in fact right after Christmas I guess), I'd been out in the evening and I got home and there was a message to call the Administrative Officer of my division in the State Department. And I thought what could this be. I mean I was so lowly who could care what I thought at 10:00 or 11:00 at night, but there was the word. I called. He said could you go to London on Sunday. I said I could go to London tomorrow morning. What is this all about? Well, this is a great thing, because of course I knew full well what was happening in London. It was the first session of the United Nations General Assembly. The conference in San Francisco had taken place the preceding summer. The United Nations had been set up. But the great thing was the first session of the General Assembly. And of course one of the delegates was Eleanor Roosevelt. So I was to go over on the ship sailing out of New York on New Year's Eve 1945-46, and a fellow passenger was Eleanor Roosevelt.

Willens: Was that assignment then conditioned on your having passed the exam?

Trent: No. I still didn't know anything about that. No, this was solely my job, which had been this matter of keeping the American public informed about what was going on, about the developments and building up the U.N. Well the U.N. of course existed by that time, or it was going to come into existence at this meeting. But my job as foreseen (and it didn't quite develop this way) but the outline of it and the reason for going was to keep our delegation informed as to comments in the American press as things unfolded. That didn't develop into as important a thing as thought, so I was sort of farmed out into other sections of the work there.

Siemer: In the Public Liaison Department of the State Department?

Trent: Yes. That's right. Well of course that meeting was just unforgettable. And the crossing over on the ship was remarkable. Mrs. Roosevelt was so sweet. There were only about three or four women involved in this. Toward the end of the trip we were going to come into Southampton, and the Cunard Pier had been hastily restored so that the ship could get in there. Mrs. Roosevelt invited the three or four of us to come up to her stateroom and have tea one afternoon. We came of course, and I remember sort of sitting there at her feet I think almost literally. She was on a chair of course and we were all like this and having tea. And in her sweet way what she was saying to us was now remember the British have been through six awful years. You're going to find London dark (this is January), cold, food very uninteresting if available, and you're going to be working around the clock sometimes, and it's going to be tough. Just try to remember that the British have been through this for a long, long time. We all said, "Yes, Mrs. Roosevelt, we will." There came times when we had to remember that advice, but it was so sweetly given.

Siemer: How long were you in London?

Trent: So we arrived and things began and that wonderful meeting unfolded. One of the people I particularly remember from it was Jan Masaryk of Czechoslovakia. A few years later when I was assigned to Prague, it was just after Masaryk had been thrown or pushed out of the window to his death in Prague, and I just had occasion to remember what a genial person he was and how everybody liked him.

- Siemer: That was quite a monumental meeting. There were a number of European giants there.
- Trent: Oh, everybody was there. And once in a while, even all these years later, only within the past year, I met a diplomat from South Africa who had been the South African Ambassador here, and I hadn't realized that he was there as a junior officer. So we had a big embrace to remember, because it was euphoric, you know. The war was over! And here were the remains, the air raid shelters and all the brussels sprouts planted in the wonderful parks and places in London, and everything of course terribly run down. London black and dirty, because who had cleaned anything in six years. And the East End of course was gone, smashed. But the war was over, and it was euphoric. It was a remarkable time in history, and I just knew I was right at it. Well you can see what that does to one's feelings. So at the end of that time, I was to come on back to my job. I hadn't heard anything [on the outcome of the Foreign Service exam]. Instead there came the opportunity to stay on in London and help with the founding of UNESCO—United Nations Educational Social and Cultural Organization. So I thought well this is great. Here we are still building this international framework that I was so interested in. So I did. That was set up with a British Secretary General and a French Deputy and an American Deputy. And I was deputy to the American Deputy, who was Professor Howard Wilson from Harvard. So with a staff of about six we started UNESCO in the back room of an apartment, a flat, in Grosvenor Square. Well you know UNESCO, it's a huge building in Paris now. So there we were. We were now in early spring 1946, and one wonderful day came the word from Washington that I had passed (the second time) the Foreign Service exam and that I could present myself for the oral either in Washington or in Paris. Well that didn't take me long to decide that I'd go to Paris. I was nearer anyway. So I went to Paris to present myself to the Board at the Embassy in Paris. You could get to Paris on military planes at that point, and I had orders to go. Sitting backwards on the plane, wearing slacks as you had to do of course in those days. And that exam was happily successful, and I was told right away, which was fine, within half an hour. There were I think several of us there from all parts of the world who had come to take the exam, and we were ushered in one door and then 45 minutes or so later, that's about the extent of the exam, went out another door.
- Willens: Was there a tradition at the time of favoring males?
- Trent: Well, there were just three women taken on as Foreign Service officers. We were the only ones in existence.
- Willens: In the whole Foreign Service?
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: And you were one of the first three?
- Trent: Yes. Now I have to say that before the war there had been a wonderful person called Constance Harvey, who I think is still with us, a very elderly lady, and a wonderful person. She had officer status. And I'm not sure about another wonderful woman who became our Ambassador to Norway and also to Finland I think at various points. I'm not sure. They were legitimate, wonderful Foreign Service officers, but they had come in under earlier provisions before the war. But after this reinstatement of the exam and the setting up of the post-war time in the post-war era then, we were just the three of us.
- Willens: What kind of assignments did you proceed to then over the next several years?
- Trent: Because of this UNESCO business that was under way, I was asked to stay on with that move to Paris, with the move of UNESCO from London to Paris and the establishment

of it there. Then my first Embassy assignment, which came within just a few weeks, was to Norway, our Embassy in Oslo. So I had two wonderful years in Norway.

Siemer: What was your job there?

Trent: My first year was in the Economic Section, and that was sort of a funny one. I discovered that there was a real goof, because the transfer papers thought that I had been working with ECOSOC, not UNESCO. So I said to the Ambassador, well this is not just exactly accurate. It's better for both you and me to know this at the beginning. And I'm perfectly willing to stay here and do what I can, but I have to tell you that I don't have the kind of background that this cable would imply. He said well we need a hand, so stay. Anyhow it was an extremely interesting time. Then I had also a year of consular duty in Oslo.

Willens: A total of two years in Norway.

Trent: Yes.

Willens: Was that the usual tenure in those days?

Trent: Well, it was an attempted tenure for a beginning officer. Of course by this time I'd really had considerable background experience in other ways, but still it was more or less a junior officer assignment. Then I did start up the ranks. The next assignment was Prague. That was an enormous experience.

Willens: What years were those?

Trent: 1949-50. And if you recall history, the Curtain was falling. I had home leave between Oslo and Prague, and got to Czechoslovakia in August of 1949. I had about six weeks of a wonderful window before the Curtain really fell. In that time, I did a little travel around the country, and I'm so grateful that Ambassador Jacobs who was there then said go see what you can, get around, because I don't think you're going to be able to a little bit later. So I did, and of course I made a start at the language, but I didn't get very far because I wasn't there very long.

Willens: What was the impact of the Curtain closing on the functioning of the Embassy?

Trent: Oh, utter restriction. I mean we were followed everywhere. You'd walk down the street and you'd have a tail right on you all the time. Any car that went anywhere we had enormous license plates in red and yellow you could see a mile away. The whole feeling in that beautiful city of Prague was like a Sleeping Beauty, as if somebody had just drugged the place. And you'd walk into Wenceslaus Square, the big center part of Prague, that lovely place, and people walking along, nobody talking. The blaring news coming out of Big Brother's voice from the microphones on the light posts. But not normal conversation. I think one of the things that I particularly recall out of that weird time in Prague under that strict Communist domination was the schoolyards you'd pass. Children were out playing at recess, not a sound. You know that is weird.

Siemer: How long did you stay in Prague?

Trent: Well I was made persona non grata, and I left in May of 1950.

Siemer: What did you do to deserve that?

Trent: Obviously when you go into a new country you start to see what kind of contacts you can make, and where and with whom you find an interesting time. In college I'd been interested in the plays of Karel Capek, a Czech playwright. He had a relative of some kind named Capek in Prague. So I made arrangements to call on this Mr. Capek because I understood he spoke French. He didn't speak English, but he wanted some kind of

contact. Well he was a dear old man in his 80s, so I went to see him. We had a couple of nice afternoons, sitting in the orchard at the back of his little villa and the maid bringing sticky buns and little drinks and things. And there we chatted away as best we could about plays and drama and things like that, just sort of making some kind of human contact in this place. Then in early November came a famous and fatal weekend when obviously the order went out now drop the Curtain. And huge army trucks rumbled through the streets of Prague carrying away the village rich and all those who were targets of the Communists to work in the coal mines and the steel mills and that kind of thing. All we could do was sit tight and see this happening. Well some months later, in the spring of 1950, came the word that poor Mr. Capek had been picked up, and under who knows what pressure came forth with the name of a dangerous Westerner, an American at that, with whom he had spoken, and that was my name. The Czech government was doing all it could to get us out of there, so they named me as *persona non grata* and I was given 36 hours to pack my goods and leave. Well interestingly enough at the same time they decided to move more vigorously, and the Ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and told to cut our staff by 2/3. So I went out in company with a couple of other Americans who drove out of Prague on this beautiful spring day in May 1950 and headed for Paris. Where else would you want to head in May 1950 in Europe? I said goodbye to Prague for that particular time. I've been back since and am so happy to see it revived because it's such a lovely place. But I'm glad I had that experience. It was a harrowing experience to me. I had to live in a hotel room for most of the time except when I was rescued and lived at the Embassy residence for a time. But the whole feeling was of such restriction and you knew that the poor dear people were under this awful blanket of control.

Willens: Was your next assignment back in Washington?

Trent: No, it was Paris. I stayed in Paris until 1952. There the job was in a combination of Political and Public Affairs Section, following the French press and particularly the Communist press.

Willens: By this time then you had spent nearly six or seven years abroad?

Trent: Yes, I had.

Willens: Wasn't there some practice of trying to bring people back in three or four years?

Trent: Well, yes. Next was Washington. So I had about three years in Washington.

Willens: What bureau were you assigned to?

Trent: I was assigned to EUR, the European Bureau.

Willens: Did you ever have any assignments in IO during the 1950s or the 1960s?

Trent: No, I didn't. I had a temporary assignment which actually was out of EA—East Asia—after I'd had my Asian experience, when I went to the U.N. General Assembly session in 1968, and then I was assigned to be a liaison with the heads of delegations from the Asian countries.

Willens: So your assignment then back in Washington in the 1950s was for about three years?

Trent: Yes. And then I went out to Indonesia. I had thought that if I was going to stick with this career, and it looked then as if I were, then I'd want to go back to Europe of course, learn more about that. But I thought if I'm going back to Europe, then I really ought to know, have an experience, with an ex-colonial area that has known European control. And that's what made it interesting in Micronesia which was really living under the remains of what was a colonial experience. So I thought well, I do not want anything to do with Vietnam.

This was before the war situation. But through the French experience, I just didn't want to get connected with Vietnam. I thought India, no. That's another life, and I'm not ready to lead that one too much. So I thought well I'd been fascinated with the Spice Islands and the Dutch East Indies and all that sort of thing. I thought this looks pretty interesting. And of course the Indonesian independence had been quite a story at the U.N., which I was following because I was interested in the U.N. So I volunteered, and I was on the next plane. No competition. Well thereby opened a whole career in Indonesia. I was out there over a period of ten years.

Willens: It covered what span then?

Trent: It covered 1957-67. But in the middle of it I was home for about three years, so it was sort of four and three, I mean I was up there about seven years. But it was the whole period of the threatened Communist takeover of Indonesia. That's what was fascinating. Having experienced the thing in reality in Prague, seeing it coming and almost succeeding in Indonesia was pretty interesting.

Willens: Did you do much traveling around the Western Pacific while you were there?

Trent: Lots. Well, the travel around Indonesia I did a great deal, because those islands are so tremendous in space and in extent.

Willens: You got to the Spice Islands?

Trent: I did. Yes.

Willens: When you were stationed in Indonesia, did you get the opportunity to travel to New Zealand or the Solomons or any of the islands out there?

Trent: No, but that came later after I was stationed in New Zealand.

Willens: Is that where you went after Indonesia?

Trent: When I came back after Indonesia, then I had again about a year and a half Washington assignment, when I was dealing with Cambodia, of all things.

Willens: So you then were switched to a different bureau? This was EA now?

Trent: Oh, yes, I was under EA of course when I was in Indonesia. Then at the end of that time, I had this temporary assignment of about four months in New York for the General Assembly Session in 1968. Then in early 1969 I went out to Wellington as political officer in the U.S. Embassy in Wellington. I was there for three years until 1972.

Siemer: That's when Dorrance was in . . .

Trent: He was in Saipan.

Siemer: Dorrance had been in Australia before that?

Trent: Maybe, but his time that I know about in Australia was after, when he was Consul General in Sydney, which is really like being Ambassador, I mean it's a big post in Australia.

Willens: Where did you first meet him?

Trent: I feel as if I've known John Dorrance for a long time. But I do not recall when we met. When he called from Saipan one day and asked me if I'd be interested in being his successor up there, I said well yes but tell me more about it. While being in New Zealand I did a lot of travel in the Western Pacific. After those days in Indonesia when we were up all night long and the Embassy was being attacked, then suddenly to find myself in New Zealand was shall we say different. So I did a lot of interesting things in New Zealand,

joining people on treks and that sort of thing. But I really looked around the Pacific. And New Zealand of course then was more closely related to the Cook Islands, to a little place called Nieuwe that nobody had ever been to before, and the Chatham Islands.

Siemer: Did you get up to the Cook Islands?

Trent: Oh, I did. They're my favorite. They were wonderful.

Siemer: At the time was New Zealand administering the Cooks?

Trent: Yes. So I was the guest of the New Zealand Commissioner in these places, which was awfully nice.

Siemer: How far in advance of your assignment in Saipan did Dorrance call you?

Trent: Well apparently he and I both somehow knew that our respective assignments were coming to an end and something was coming next. It must have been about March or April of 1972.

Siemer: Were you familiar with any of the status issues in Micronesia at that time?

Trent: No.

Willens: What kind of briefing did Dorrance give you

Trent: Well, actually I have to say none. I didn't see John. Whatever I knew about it was very peripheral. It was my interest in the U.N. and I was aware of the Trusteeship Council and that sort of thing. And also because of course New Zealand is always very interested in anything that goes on in the Pacific, even though that was pretty far away. But there are a lot of very knowledgeable and very interesting people in New Zealand who sort of make the Pacific their thing. So I really didn't know much about it. I knew nothing about any negotiations. But I knew we had a responsibility under the Trusteeship Agreement to do something about the eventual arrangements with these people.

Willens: Did your proposed assignment there have to be reviewed and approved back at the State Department in Washington?

Trent: Oh certainly. I mean John didn't make an assignment. I think out of courtesy if (I just assumed anyhow) he was going to recommend me for this and he wanted to give me the courtesy of asking me if that would be okay with me. So presumably that's what he did. I'm sure that there was no long line of people waiting to take that assignment. Because I was perfectly aware that it was sort of a dead-end assignment, and it proved that, because Washington never quite had time to focus I think on what was going on in the Pacific islands.

Siemer: It wasn't the pure State Department assignment either because of the Interior Department involvement and the peculiar status that the Trust Territory government had.

Trent: I was a Foreign Service officer on State Department rolls, and so of course the State Department had to make the assignment and pay my salary. But I'm sure they had to run it through Interior and Defense. That was one of the interesting things with the job, of course, of keeping your lines open to these people from the other departments. I don't know how the thing went administratively in Washington, but presumably State made the assignment, having it more or less rubber-stamped I think by these other people.

Willens: When did you actually report for duty in Saipan?

Trent: Just before the famous Congress session in Ponape. It was July of 1972. When I came back here [to Washington], I just had one long evening dinner briefing with Haydn Williams,



- and that was it. And that's really when I first heard about the Marianas going a different way.
- Willens: You met Haydn Williams here in Washington before you went to Saipan to begin your new assignment?
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: Just to complete your employment history, I think you recalled for us earlier that after your two years as Liaison Officer you came back here to work at OMSN as Director of the Office?
- Trent: Well, they never came through with that appointment. I had to and did resign or retire as a Foreign Service officer. So then my designation was Foreign Service Reserve.
- Willens: You resigned as of when?
- Trent: 1974.
- Willens: At the completion of your two years out in Saipan?
- Trent: That's right. That was because of retirement requirements.
- Siemer: The State Department's requirements?
- Trent: That's right. Oh I would have gone on, but frankly that meant a promotion, which didn't happen and I knew probably wasn't going to because of chronology, shall we say.
- Willens: How long did you stay there [at OMSN]?
- Trent: I was just trying to remember. I think it must have been a year and a half.
- Willens: Were you there when President Ford actually signed the Covenant approval, which would have been in March 1976?
- Trent: I think so. I think I was there until 1976. Because I remember Carter coming in. Carter was elected in 1976.
- Siemer: Right. Then he came in 1977.
- Trent: Yes. So I must have been there until—I guess the two years there would have been until 1976.
- Willens: Since that time, since 1976, you have diverse interests.
- Trent: Yes. I've lived here in Washington. I've had many diverse interests, and I've done some lecturing for the Smithsonian trips, particularly in the Indonesian area and just this one to Micronesia.
- Willens: Have you taken some of these cruises with the Smithsonian as their lecturer?
- Trent: As their lecturer, yes.
- Willens: I always thought that was one of the more coveted assignments.
- Trent: I think it's really great. Of course it's fun to do the trip, but I find it very rewarding because you have to work on organizing your lectures. You have about six or so during the course of the trip. It's a ready-made audience. People come if they want to, and if they don't want to they go swimming. But I found that they came and were interested. The nice thing is that you're supposed to stay available. I mean you sit at different tables and around so that if anybody wants to talk with you, then there you are. I enjoyed it very much.
- Willens: Have you ever published any of your thoughts or recollections about the Trust Territory?

- Trent: No, I haven't.
- Willens: Did you retain any documents from your service during the two years in Saipan?
- Trent: No. Whatever I had (I had some books and things that were really pretty interesting to me) I've given to the Smithsonian along with the artifacts that I brought back from not just Micronesia but Polynesia. Part of my New Zealand assignment meant going to Tonga and the Solomon Islands and various areas there, and I picked up some things along the way. I have a good friend who was the head of the Oceanic Division of the Department of Anthropology at the Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian, and I asked her to come and see what I had and what she'd like. Well she was delighted, so I have given those things to the Smithsonian.
- Willens: Did it include any records?
- Trent: No, no records.
- Willens: Mary, turning to the session of the Congress of Micronesia in Ponape in August 1972, what is your general recollection today of that very important session of the Congress?
- Trent: A rather chaotic one. I have to preface this (and this is a very important preface) by saying I was very much of a neophyte at this point. I had just arrived on Saipan. I'd had a very short briefing at CINCPAC in Honolulu on the way out. And I'd had this session with Ambassador Williams in Washington. Then I hit Saipan, and I'd barely got myself to the Royal Taga Hotel when suddenly the word came that a storm, a hurricane, was threatening, and that if I wanted to get to Ponape for the Congress session I'd better get going that afternoon on a plane. So I got myself out to the airport and on the plane. And I got to Ponape. But I think it took a while to generate a sort of feeling of support. I think people in the Trust Territory government and in other places were suspicious of me. They didn't know who I was, what I was supposed to do there, and I don't know whether this was because they hadn't quite understood what John was doing or what. But you know you're rather surprised to have a brand new person coming in and then suddenly saying well you'd better go off to the next island 1,000 miles east. Well, what do you do? Well you do, because that's part of the assignment. But you're sort of left on your own. And I was given no place to live, just go to the Royal Taga Hotel. Well, I've been with embassies all over the world, and one thing you do, you take care of your colleagues when they come in and something's ready for them. I don't think they were briefed on what the job was to be, not that I had been too much briefed on it either, but it had to be developed along the way. Let's say that I felt it had to be developed as I felt it should be or as I felt I could develop it. I wasn't John Dorrance; he'd develop it in one way, brilliantly I think. But I being a different person was going to have to function a little bit differently. It took a while. Well to get back to the principal question about the Congress. So I arrived there really not knowing a soul. I had some names of course but I hadn't any background on them. I found that I did have a place to stay which was just fine. I turned right away to rent a little car and go from my little hilltop place to the Congress of Micronesia and then get cracking as early and quickly as I could on who these people were and what this was all about. With the famous Francisco Uludong and Resolution 117 for independence, it was just coming into this volcano.
- Willens: It did seem like it was one of the more chaotic . . .
- Trent: Well it was.
- Willens: . . . and important sessions.

- Trent: Utterly important. I was frustrated because I was saying I know this is important, but let me see why and what and who's on first.
- Willens: It was the first session of the Congress after the United States had decided to agree to separate negotiations with the Northern Marianas. What is your recollection of any discussions you might have had with Congress members about the separate negotiations issue?
- Trent: I don't think I have anything very substantive here. This was such a learning time for me. I realized of course this was an immensely vital interest to people back here, that the attitude about Marianas separatism and independence were the two big issues. And I just have a very clear recollection of people scurrying around all over the place, passing papers and that sort of semi-frenzy when you get agitated on an issue. Then lots and lots of separately little clutches and knots of people discussing things as well as the fiestas that always go with a session of Congress.
- Willens: The United States apparently tried to send you a little bit of background information by which you could reassure the Marianas representatives. There's a document (included in the materials we sent) dated August 30. Do you recall a meeting with Senator Pangelinan or other Marianas people to communicate the substance of this?
- Trent: Yes. I do recall that, and attempting to follow the instructions or what was given there.
- Siemer: When you met with Ambassador Williams in Washington before you went out, did he have a view of what the Status Liaison Officer ought to be doing?
- Trent: Yes, I'm certain he did, some of which he was able to communicate. You know what an intense person Haydn is, and he'd been working with this thing for such a long time. So he was discussing and passing along with great fervor the whole background of the thing, and I was somewhat gasping trying to take all this in. Plus the matter of all the personal considerations of getting yourself ready to go off and live in Saipan. It was a very compressed briefing, shall we say. In retrospect, of course, I would have welcomed a lot more. But that whole experience at the beginning I recall as being somewhat breathless.
- Willens: You remember Resolution 117 and the whole independence effort.
- Trent: Oh, certainly.
- Willens: What was your first impression of this independence movement?
- Trent: Oh, that it was very strong. Let's put it this way. That it was very strongly and fervently presented and that it gave evidence I thought of some kind of outside support.
- Willens: Did you see any evidence of outside support during this Ponape session?
- Trent: There again it was hard to identify not knowing all the characters in the play. But one just felt having seen this kind of thing in operation in other places that there was an interest here, or a desire, to press this thing. I was perfectly aware of how important this was to the United States government. Therefore, it had to be watched and looked after pretty carefully. The activists were not too hard to identify, but I'm sure that under the surface there were those who would have been more difficult to identify.
- Willens: Who do you recall as being the identifiable leaders of the independence effort?
- Trent: Well of course this period I particularly recall Francisco Uludong.
- Willens: What do you remember about his activities?

- Trent: Well I recall him as a Palauan. He was a young political activist type, and of course when we think of the year that we're talking about, 1972, and what was going on with young political activist types in this country and other parts of the world too, he fitted that picture pretty well. He was anti-establishment, that's the general feeling I got from it, anti-U.S. government, which was the establishment.
- Willens: Who else do you remember as being outspoken about the independence alternative at this time?
- Trent: I have to say that I cannot at this point recall.
- Willens: At the same session there was apparently a considerable effort made to review the draft Compact that had been worked on by the U.S. delegation and the Joint Committee headed by Mr. Salii. Do you recall any discussion of the draft Compact and specifically the kinds of criticisms of it that are reflected in some of the documents?
- Trent: Not specifically. I recall of course that the subject was there. But I cannot recall specifics on it, Howard.
- Siemer: Were there any outside advisers there at the time? Any Australians or New Zealanders?
- Trent: I'm not aware of either of those, no.
- Willens: You've made reference in the memo you sent back I guess near the end of the session.
- Trent: I'll stand by it. I don't quite remember, but I'm sure I tried to be right about it.
- Willens: You commented about the fact that the Marshalls and the Truk legislative delegations had failed to show up for some hearings.
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: What was that all about?
- Trent: As a matter of fact, you're referring to something that I did read in what you sent me. And when I came upon that I couldn't remember why. There had been a thought of course out of the Marshalls of the Marshalls going for separate negotiations, I guess probably because there was always that kind of feeling bubbling in the Marshalls and they already had a lot of military connections down there, clearly from Kwajalein. So it was not surprising that they had felt it might be a good bonanza for them. Obviously I reported that they didn't show but I do not recall why or the circumstances.
- Willens: There was a final decision to instruct the Joint Committee to negotiate for independence. Do you have any recollection today about any debate on that particular resolution?
- Trent: I don't.
- Willens: Do you have any particular recollection of how the Marianas representatives at the Congress acted at that time in terms of either the Joint Committee's negotiations or the separate negotiations issues?
- Trent: Well Pangelinan was always a very active and articulate person in defense of the Marianas position. And let's see, Oly Borja, particularly Herman Guerrero, were people whom I of course came to know later on.
- Willens: There's an indication here that at some point in October of 1972 you met with the Governor of Guam. Did you have subsequent contacts with Guamanian political leaders on generally the subject of political status?
- Trent: No.

- Willens: Was this the only one you had?
- Trent: This is the only one that I recall. I do remember that as sort of a courtesy visit. I was on Guam quite a lot because I had to go over there to hand carry my classified messages to be sent by the Navy. I stayed in touch with Joe Murphy, the *Pacific Daily News* people and that kind of thing.
- Willens: What was your feeling as to the issue of reintegration of Guam and the Northern Marianas?
- Trent: I was interested to see that evoked or brought up again in some of these papers to which you're referring to I suppose. I don't recall that as having been a live issue.
- Willens: On either the Guamanian side or the Northern Marianas side?
- Trent: I don't recall it as such.
- Willens: Some of the events that took place at the Ponape session of the Congress are referred to in this memo about a discussion that Ambassador Williams had with Senator Salii during the negotiations at was it Barbers Point?
- Trent: At Barbers Point.
- Willens: In October of 1972. This memorandum indicates it was prepared based on a debriefing of Ambassador Williams. Would you have prepared this memorandum?
- Trent: No. I wondered when I saw that. No, I didn't prepare that.
- Willens: Were you present at the meetings?
- Trent: No.
- Willens: So you are on the addressee list but all you know is basically what you can see in the memorandum?
- Trent: Yes. I have re-read that, but I was not involved.
- Willens: Senator Salii mentioned some of the non-Micronesian influences. He mentioned Roger Gale and the Friends of Micronesia and some of the American Peace Corps people. Did that stimulate any recollection as to what kind of influences those people had?
- Trent: Oh, throughout the time of course Roger Gale and the Friends of Micronesia were active and conspicuous. But again, way back in the Ponape session I didn't quite know who these people were. But I came to know of course pretty quickly.
- Willens: Over the period of your assignment then out there, how would you describe the kind of positions that Roger Gale and the Friends of Micronesia were taking with respect to the Marianas in particular?
- Trent: Well, I think they were opposed to the whole focus of the Marianas negotiations. And it was generally this anti-establishment feeling that I felt was permeating so much out there. I guess I felt more of this in retrospect after I'd been able in later years to survey what was happening all over the country. But this was out there I think a reflection or an extension of what was happening all over, burning flags and things like that.
- Willens: Do you think it was primarily an anti-military element?
- Trent: I think that was a strong part of it, sure. I believe that Uludong and some of those people wore patched flags upside down or something like that. I mean those overt signs of thumbing their nose at the United States. But the military involvement was a big part of it of course.

- Willens: How about the fragmentation issue generally? Did you think that they were opposed to the separate negotiations because they thought that all of Micronesia should remain together?
- Trent: I have to say that I don't know. I think that it's almost as if there were some sort of an incentive to just bash Uncle Sam wherever you could do it and here was one little possibility. So that's what they were doing.
- Willens: Did you personally ever have the assignment of trying to respond to their criticisms of the Friends of Micronesia or deal with them face to face?
- Trent: Oh, I've talked with Uludong a lot, and I've talked with Roger Gale. Yes.
- Willens: What kind of exchanges would you have with them?
- Trent: Oh perfectly polite, but not getting anywhere much. Not getting anywhere really. Just feeling that well, you know, the colonial era is over and Uncle Sam's got to get the point.
- Willens: That was their view?
- Trent: Yes.
- Siemer: How old was Gale at that point, about?
- Trent: Oh I have no idea. Thirty-five?
- Willens: Did you see Francisco Uludong in later years?
- Trent: No.
- Willens: You don't know whether his views ever changed on this subject?
- Trent: I don't know. He was obviously such a bright guy. I said you're not being able to think this thing through and to see what the possibilities are for the survival and the existence of these islands out here. He was not persuadable at that point. I think that's happened to so many of that particular generation.
- Willens: As a result of the Ponape session, the United States had to prepare for a new round of negotiations with the Micronesian negotiators. Did you play any role in shaping the strategy of the United States delegation in that Barbers Point round of negotiations?
- Trent: No. I'd like to say I had, but I really didn't.
- Willens: Did you participate in the staff sessions that preceded and that took place during the course of the negotiations?
- Trent: Some of them.
- Willens: What is your recollection of any debate that took place within the delegation as to whether to continue working on the Compact even though the delegation had now been given this instruction to negotiate also for independence on the Micronesian side?
- Trent: I just really have nothing to contribute. That Barbers Point exercise was a complex and confusing one to everybody concerned. I can't speak for others, of course, but it was obviously held under some duress and strain and concern, because of course it was held in the wake of the Ponape session. I really have nothing to contribute that would be helpful to you on that one.
- Willens: Did you have a personal view at the time as to whether continuing to work on the Compact would be a useful thing to do?
- Trent: I had a feeling that continuing was a good idea.

- Siemer: Had you met Salii by this time?
- Trent: Oh, yes. Well I must have met Salii for the first time at Ponape.
- Siemer: What was your impression of him?
- Trent: I've always had a very favorable and interesting impression of Salii. I liked him. We've had lots of talks. I liked his wife and family, and I sort of got in with his family and his children, and we became friends.
- Siemer: Did you think he was a straightforward negotiator?
- Trent: Oh, now that's another question. He's a Palauan. I couldn't sign my name to that one, no. But highly intelligent. Rather remarkable I think with what he was dealing with, these various elements—culturally, linguistically, politically. He was juggling some balls there and handling them pretty ably. So I had this sort of the adversary's admiration of a very competent adversary.
- Siemer: Had you met Amata Kabua by this time?
- Trent: Well I guess I met him also at Ponape. Oh, yes, I've been Amata's guest in the Marshalls.
- Willens: What's your assessment of him?
- Trent: Well, wily. Very wily. Get Amata with a guitar at a party and he's hot stuff. That can be said of many of course. But that is not to denigrate his brains. I've come out of this whole Micronesian experience with a high regard for the intelligence of these people with whom we were involved. That's not 100 percent maybe, but it's easy to point to some really good ones.
- Siemer: Had you ever met Kabua's mother?
- Trent: No.
- Willens: The general perception, at least based on the documents and the interviews, was that Salii was personally pretty well committed to a free association alternative. Did you have a view on that point?
- Trent: Yes. Oh, I had a feeling that he was really for going right ahead with the Compact and that free association was his answer.
- Willens: Do you recall whether from your discussions with him as to what his views were about the separate negotiations with the Marianas?
- Trent: I think they were that he regretted it but okay it's done.
- Willens: How about Kabua? Did you have any sense of what his preferences were ultimately for status?
- Trent: I never really had occasion (I think this is right) to question that he was okay with the Compact. With the Marshalls I was always interested in the fact that they kept looking with one eye down at Nauru because they have a cultural and a long-time connection with Nauru. That little rock of course is awfully wealthy. I remember Dwight Heine from the Marshalls, who told me one day with regard to the Marshalls and Nauru, you know we're kin. We laugh at the same jokes. And I thought that was a very interesting definition of cultural affinity. We laugh at the same jokes. It sounds like such a frivolous remark, but it's a profound one.
- Siemer: How about Mr. Nakayama?

Trent: Well now he's one of the people, an adversary, whom I reluctantly admired greatly. There's a smart one. He had the inscrutable look as well as approach, but he had dignity of course. He was difficult to approach. He gave me a hard time in a number of ways, which I had to admire him for.

Siemer: In what sense?

Trent: Well particularly when the U.N. Trusteeship Council visit came. Of course I was assigned to them, went along with the visits in the various districts. At one luncheon on Saipan, I don't know who made the table arrangements and I didn't think too much about it, but Nakayama did. I was at the table with Nakayama and one of the members of the Trusteeship Council. I don't remember which one. I saw that Nakayama was icy, and I didn't quite know why. I tried to warm up things. Then he gave a blast in the public Senate session about this representative of the State Department who had insisted upon inserting herself so that he couldn't talk freely with the Trusteeship Council person. Well after lunch when we were away from the table I scrambled away because I realized that he may have wanted to talk. There was this underlying Nakayama feeling, I think, that anytime he could give us a little blow, okay. He was a very smart guy.

Siemer: But you didn't get that sense from Salii?

Trent: I didn't.

Siemer: Was Salii more ready to invite you to social functions than Nakayama would be?

Trent: Well now I'm not sure that that necessarily came into it. I mean I gave social functions, and of course when the people came out from Washington there was always something like that. But they didn't give social functions. I didn't feel cut out. I mean obviously there were people with regard to my assignment who said well you know she doesn't go drink in bars, she won't know anything about it. And I said well I don't and if that's what you want I'm just not the person. So I wasn't around drinking with the boys. And I do know that whenever they had the Senate or the Congress sessions on Saipan and probably Ponape too, oh there were long poker games that went on in the afternoon and all kinds of things that went on about which I literally and clearly knew nothing. So there were lots of these get-together things. But when I was in their districts, they were always extremely courteous and helpful.

Siemer: Was the same thing true when you visited Truk?

Trent: Yes, except that my best contact from the hospitality point of view was the DistAd in Moen. At the moment I can't come up with his name. But now Amaraich of course is another person. With Amaraich and Nakayama, they were two powerhouses.

Siemer: Was Amaraich easy to approach?

Trent: No, but more so I believed than Nakayama. Amaraich also held his distance and his dignity. I don't think he had that Japanese background that Nakayama did. But he was a brilliant guy and under bigger context I think Amaraich could have gone somewhere politically on as I say a bigger issue.

Siemer: Did you have the sense from your discussions with Amaraich that deep down he was an independence person?

Trent: I think so.

Siemer: More so than Nakayama, or were they comparable?



- Trent: I'm not sure what pals they were between themselves. I just wouldn't know that really, and there was no great indication of buddy-buddy, nor hostility, neither one. But I think Amaraich could have had a bigger political view of things. Later on at that U.N. session which I attended for the liaison with the Asian delegations, of course, I certainly remember Amaraich from there, who at that point as sort of out of the island context, he was more jovial and much more approachable. I was there working with the Indonesians as well. I remember coming out of the hotel we were all staying at, I was with an Indonesian bunch here, then out came Amaraich and some of the Micronesians. And Amaraich said, "Well I guess Mary takes care of all the "nesians." It was just a sort of cute little remark. But I really had high respect for those two people, particularly their brains. And also John Mangefel.
- Willens: What is your recollection of him?
- Trent: Well rather delightful. John is such a character with a terrific sense of humor, which he didn't mind if it kind of cut somebody along the way. I was on a flight from Yap or Saipan to somewhere, and John was aboard. There were several sort of nice ladies sitting around where I was. John was kind of over here. And John and I were chatting at one particular point, and the ladies just sort of pulling themselves away from this savage. You know John can look very savage. He was sort of unshaven and all this kind of thing. I guess lunch came or something and people fell silent over their lunches. Then the lunch trays were taken and John knowing that he was being naughty said "Um, bridge, anyone?" And apparently he was a terror at bridge. And these women were absolutely startled.
- Willens: What is your recollection of what his views were within the Joint Committee?
- Trent: Well I never felt any sense of bashing the United States from John. He was I felt supportive on the free association and the Compact issues.
- Siemer: Was he relatively easy to approach?
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: Had you visited him or others in Yap at the time?
- Trent: Oh, yes. I went to Yap several times. In fact I gave the graduation address for the Outer Islands High School on Ulithi, which was really quite an experience.
- Siemer: How many graduates were there?
- Trent: Well about eight, four and four more or less, I don't remember, girls and boys. And of course what they were wearing for the graduation exercise was what you wear on Yap. The boys with the thu [loincloth] and the girls topsless. To the tune of the March from Aida. That's a cultural mix.
- Willens: Based on those visits to the separate districts and the outer islands, did you form a conclusion about the differences among the districts?
- Trent: Oh, yes. The districts had differences. But I never felt that they were so distinct that they couldn't possibly blend or at least collaborate or come together or something of the kind. I felt they had their distinct qualities. Palau of course had an interesting history of Western connections way back to some of the British who were stranded there. I got very interested and, as you can imagine from my own background, in the historic background of some of these places, because they've had foreign contacts that have perhaps had more influence than we sometimes are aware of. Roman Tmetuchl, of course, who was kind of unforgettable, from Palau, he and Sali were the two Senators. Tmetuchl was perhaps

the head of the wily list. I guess he's gotten into very lucrative business deals with the Japanese.

Siemer: Was it your view back then that the Palauans were likely to go along with the other districts and were likely to stick together?

Trent: I can't quite say that, because Palau had a very strong sense of being Palau. And of course the military interest in Palau was an important aspect. They were going to make every penny out of it that was possible, which is understandable. But they were tough.

Siemer: Were there any military people who came out during the time that you were there to look at Palau that fueled this interest?

Trent: Well of course Bill Crowe was a member of the U.S. team.

Siemer: No, I was thinking of people aside from the U.S. negotiating team.

Trent: I think it's quite possible that they did, and I don't mean to sound that it was an undercover kind of thing because they would be obvious when they got there. But I don't recall a special contact. There may have been a Marine group.

Willens: Is it your recollection that the expression of military interest in Palau encouraged separatist efforts in Palau?

Trent: I don't know, Howard. I think that I got this strong feeling of nationalism. I think Saliu was a supporter for a compact of free association, but I think that in general that there was a very strong feeling that we are Palauans, the nationalist sentiment, and perhaps fueled by the military interest in it. But a reluctance to sort of join up with anybody else who isn't a Palauan.

Willens: Would you say the same thing about the Marianas people?

Trent: Well of course the Chamorros feel that they're sort of king of the ranch and were lording it over the Carolinians in my day. The Carolinians really were the dregs on Saipan.

Willens: Who do you recall discussing that situation with among the Carolinians?

Trent: Palacios. Rabauliman.

Willens: These were complaints that you heard from them while you were there?

Trent: Oh, all you have to do is open your eyes and ears and realize the "tension" is too strong in the feeling between the two and the language situation. For instance, over on Managaha there's the plaque to the early Carolinian settlement there. The Chamorros would say those Carolinians wanted to remember they were here first.

Willens: Were there specific instances of economic or other discrimination that you recall?

Trent: I think it was just a plain racial situation, which is always almost inexplicable when you're not personally involved.

Willens: Going back to the other districts for a moment, there is some suggestion that the people in the districts like Yap and Truk were perhaps not as eager for economic development as people might have been in Palau or the Marianas or the Marshalls. Did you get any sense from your travels that peoples' interest in economic development varied from district to district?

Trent: I certainly would not characterize Truk as being a laggard in that respect. Yap is sort of laid back. I was there a number of times. Yap, I think, would probably just not mind letting things go along. Although John Mangefel was a real activist. John had met the outside

world and he rather liked what he saw. As far as Truk was concerned, Truk had some very canny business people. There was a great guy who was a baseball star. He had lived in Japan. He obviously had a Japanese background because of his name. He was in charge of one of the fishery operations there. He's an example, but there were others in Truk who were very interested in tourist possibilities with the lagoon and the Japanese wrecks to be seen there.

Willens: Before the first round of negotiations took place in the Marianas, do you have any recollection of what you anticipated were going to be the major issues that the negotiators would have to discuss?

Trent: Well, I can say that Eddie Pangelinan was always very helpful as far as courtesies and taking me around. It took awhile to realize what issues they were focusing on. Of course the land on Tinian was obviously a very important one.

Willens: Do you remember visiting Tinian early on in the negotiations yourself?

Trent: Oh, yes. I've been on Tinian quite a number of times.

Willens: What were your early impressions as to the willingness of the people to make land available for U.S. military purposes?

Trent: Quite divided. There was one feeling oh hurray we're going to get a lot of money out of this and this will just be fine. But then there was the feeling what's going to happen to the famous Jones Ranch. Then something of a feeling well here comes another conqueror, you know. That's not so much with regard to Tinian. Then when they wanted to negotiate down on the amount of land, it had to be pointed out to them that to land a big plane on an airport you've got to have this much space so we can't negotiate this down any further. Throughout, we have to realize what was going on in the world [at that time]. The Vietnam war was the whole interest there, and I'm sure that whatever was going to happen there and whatever was going to be the fate of Clark Field and Subic Bay was right over the horizon. Those were things we never talked about. But there it was.

Siemer: Before the start of the negotiations, did Ambassador Williams ask you to do any background work or ask you for any particular facts or information?

Trent: No.

Siemer: Were there other people in Ambassador Williams's group back at OMSN who had direct contact with you while you were out there?

Trent: Not particularly. Of course my contact when Haydn wasn't was whoever was the Director of OMSN, and most of the time that was Bill Crowe, for whom I had great respect.

Willens: Do you have any recollection of the first round of negotiations?

Trent: Well I don't seem to. I'm sorry.

Willens: Near the end of the two days there was a problem raised about the Joint Communiqué, and Dr. Palacios raised an objection to using the word "permanent" in connection with the proposed relationship with the United States. Do you have any recollection of that issue being raised?

Trent: No, I don't really. I really can't contribute on that one.

Willens: What was your assessment based on your experience with the Commission as to Dr. Palacios and his particular viewpoint? Did you get to know him through personal conversations?

- Trent: I had some personal conversations. I can't say that I got to know him particularly. I think he had a manner of being quite authoritative as if he knew exactly what he was talking about, whom he represented and so forth. But I never was particularly drawn to him as a spokesman.
- Willens: Who were the members of the Commission that you got to know best in the course of this assignment?
- Trent: Well of course Eddie and Borja. Herman Guerrero. Ben Manglona. Atalig. Those are the ones I can pull up right now.
- Willens: What is your recollection of Ed Pangelinan as you saw him across the table as Chairman of the Commission?
- Trent: Well I have to hand it to Eddie; I mean he seemed to manage his bunch pretty well. He was indefatigable. He turned up when he was supposed to, as far as my experience goes. He was certainly earnest about what he was doing and I think negotiated for his people as well as staying friendly with us along the way.
- Willens: The Ambassador had a style of meeting from time to time personally with Ed and often Ben Santos along. Were you present at some of these meetings?
- Trent: No. He usually did those one on one as far as I know. I don't remember being present.
- Willens: Did you have any impression as to the utility of those meetings?
- Trent: Well I think Haydn always felt a personal contact would be helpful.
- Siemer: Did the Ambassador want other members of his team to try to do the same thing with other members of the Commission?
- Trent: Not to my knowledge, except for me because I was out there with him, and he did want me to, which I tried to do and certainly living right there I did that. When the group came out, then he usually specified me as a person to keep them up to date about personal attitudes on various things. I have to say that I felt very much at the end of the line as far as being out there was concerned. There was a lot that I don't know anything about that went on in Washington while I was out there. There was no intention to keep me uninformed, but I think it was difficult to remember that there was somebody out there who needed this information. I'm sure there must have been inter-departmental communications of which I'm completely unaware.
- Siemer: What about your colleagues at the State Department? Was there somebody there who was supposed to be keeping you informed?
- Trent: Well that I think was one of the big gaps. It was, you see, sort of split between IO and EA. And also those people were fighting Vietnam and they just had so much on their plate. For me it was sort of a tough thing, because I perfectly well realized (knowing how things function) that the thing that's going to be in the bottom of the in-basket is something that's coming in from Saipan. Yes, I'll get to that when I get to it. And also these were long communications because I was trying to assess feelings and attitudes and so forth. I don't mean that there was any dereliction in duty, but it's just that you have to do things in priority, and Saipan wasn't very far up the line.
- Siemer: When you were sending your reports back to the States, what was your standard as to what should be classified?
- Trent: Well hopefully what I sent unclassified was stuff that certainly had either been in the press or somebody's speech or something like that. I don't recall. That would have been I think

- the proper standard. When I got to discussing what Eddie Pangelinan thought about this or that, I felt confidential about it.
- Siemer: So those were the kinds of things that you classified, when you were telling the people back in Washington about communications with specific people?
- Trent: Yes. And of course any predictions that I might have based on those contacts.
- Willens: You mentioned Ben Manglona. What was your assessment of Ben's participation in the work of the Commission?
- Trent: Well I thought Ben was quite an intelligent person. He wanted to be sure I think that the Marianas were getting what they should get out of this. He's just one of the people (because of knowing that he had some influence on the Commission) that I tried to stay in touch with.
- Siemer: Was he accessible to you?
- Trent: Yes, when he was around; he wasn't always on Saipan of course. I went to Rota and to Tinian a number of times. I could in effect write my own air ticket. Through Air Mike I could do these trips.
- Siemer: Were there other people on Rota who were particularly friendly or accessible to you?
- Trent: No. I remember very well the mayor on Tinian because I went with him and two visiting admirals from CINCPAC to see the memorial sites to the two bombs. That was an unforgettable experience.
- Siemer: Was that Felipe Mendiola at that time?
- Trent: No; it was a Cruz. We went rattling out in a Jeep, and then saw the enormous airfield from which the B-29 took off.
- Willens: Was that early on in the negotiations?
- Trent: Oh, this had nothing to do with the negotiations. They were just coming out and they wanted to go to Tinian. No, I don't think that was related to negotiations particularly, but of course the more military who knew what we wanted on Tinian, the better I guess.
- Siemer: How about Oly Borja? Was he accessible to you?
- Trent: Oh yes. We called him Roly Poly Oly.
- Willens: What was your assessment of his role on the Commission?
- Trent: He was a pleasant guy. I think he was an intellectual lightweight. But he was a pretty canny businessman.
- Siemer: What was your sense of his business at the time? Was it very active?
- Trent: I don't know, but I think he was a dealer. In what and how I don't know, but he tried to be a dealer in land. When they all thought this land thing was going to go through they all went dashing over one afternoon to Tinian to be sure they bought land, and Oly was one of the promoters of that little plan.
- Willens: What was the reaction within the U.S. delegation to those disclosures?
- Trent: Sort of "What do you expect." Emmett Rice is the person to talk with because he was brought into the Department of the Interior (I think he was brought in from the outside but I'm not certain) on this whole question of settlement of war claims and land and so forth.

- Willens: How about Joe Cruz. What was your assessment of Joe's role?
- Trent: Joe Cruz was always ready to sing "God Bless America" at any moment.
- Siemer: That's an asset when dealing with America.
- Trent: Well Haydn thought this was just great.
- Willens: Was he regarded as more of a lightweight?
- Trent: Well it was hard not to regard him as a buffoon. But I don't think he was. I think that would be underselling Joe. As I say, I really come through with a pretty high regard for the canny intelligence (with some exceptions) of the people we were dealing with out there.
- Siemer: What about the rest of the U.S. team? What was your sense of their view of the Marianas Political Status Commission after that December 1972 round when they had had a chance to see them all?
- Trent: Well I suppose they all went home and talked together about this, but I don't know what they thought.
- Siemer: Did you have a sense that they were optimistic after the meetings?
- Trent: I think so. They were certainly going to pursue it.
- Siemer: Was there any sense that this was an easier collection of people to negotiate with than the Micronesians?
- Trent: I believe that was the general feeling of the team.
- Siemer: That the Marianas folks were perhaps more reasonable or less incendiary?
- Trent: Yes. And then they were closer to us. I think they endeared themselves to Haydn by wanting to join up, so to speak. I guess at that point that the acquisition of the Tinian facilities was pretty important in the eyes of the Defense people.
- Willens: What was your overall assessment of Ambassador Williams as the head of the team and the way he dealt with the Micronesians on the one hand and with the Marianas negotiators on the other?
- Trent: He certainly was fervent and committed and was going to do the best as he saw it, and I think that's my assessment.
- Siemer: He's quite a reserved and precise person, though. Not perhaps in the mold of the negotiating diplomat that perhaps you've seen in other posts in the State Department.
- Trent: That's true. Yes.
- Siemer: How was he able to kind of overcome that natural reserve that he has? The Micronesians place a great deal of emphasis on personal interaction.
- Trent: That's why it seemed to me that this getting acquainted with him, which took some time, and a lot of effort, was essential to establish a feeling of trust with them. I have felt in these underdeveloped areas, and that includes Indonesia and some of the areas I've been, that because of the facts of life there are times that a man will talk more openly with a woman, with me, on some of these things than with another man.
- Siemer: There's less macho posturing.
- Trent: Exactly. Over in Indonesia, they used to tell me (it was the husband of a good Indonesian friend of mine who let me in on this secret) we still see the Dutch overseer out there in the coffee fields or the rice plantation with his hands in his pockets and kind of walking down

like that. And we mentally run the other way or just block out. But he said with a woman we can talk. We've retained our masculinity.

Siemer: Bill Crowe seemed to be much warmer.

Trent: That's true.

Siemer: Did Crowe develop better rapport with some of the members of the Commission?

Trent: I don't know whether it was his task, but it was a self-assumed one I guess. When we got word that he had made flag, in other words he's going up to rear admiral, the whole team had been out from Washington. The work was finished, and so we were all going for a big picnic over on Managaha, which we frequently did. Of course the Marianas people were along with us, and it was a great day and so forth. Well the cable just came before we departed for Saipan that Bill had made flag, and this was crucial because it would have been the end of his career if he hadn't. So we got over to Managaha and had lunch and then everybody was going for a swim. So the military contingent who knew the routine (we had an Air Force guy and a Marine and what not, all of them), so they approached Bill, grabbed his watch and his wallet, put them aside, and then took him—one, two, three, and into the drink. They asked Eddie to participate. Well, no they weren't quite ready to do that, just throw the new admiral into the Pacific Ocean. But the other guys did. It was a camaraderie kind of touch, and Bill was the perfect candidate for it. I stayed with the Crowes last year in London, and it was wonderful. When he told me that he was going on to London, he said you've got to come visit. I had visited them in Naples when he had the NATO command south in Naples.

Willens: Mary, in the documents that I've provided you there is some reference to the visit of the U.N. visiting mission in early 1973. There is some indication that you may have participated in meetings with them either individually or as a group or with the Marianas.

Trent: I did.

Willens: Could you recall for us what your responsibilities were and what you remember about that visiting mission?

Trent: Well I remember it pretty clearly because I accompanied them around the islands. I particularly remember it in the Marshalls, because much of that was done by ship from one to the other of the islands of the Marshalls. There are many interesting stories that come out from it simply from throwing this international bunch of experts into this setting and putting them against the Micronesians and against ourselves and against the Trust Territory government itself. So it was a chessboard that had lots of interesting players on it. The Soviet-Chinese relationship was an interesting one. There were very good arrangements made. There were no great big mistakes I think. There were ships when we needed a ship, or there were planes or something of that kind. They got through very well that way, which was a considerable achievement. The meetings I remember particularly on Ponape. The old chiefs were brought in from some of the islands and some what I suppose was satisfactory interpretation made. Of course there was a lot of festivity with all this, feasts and so forth. But there were meetings which were quite substantive and they seemed to be very pleased about having the Trusteeship Council representatives come.

Willens: Did the U.N. Mission come away with any sense as to whether the people in the other districts were ready for self-government or making some decision about future political status?

- Trent: I'm not sure whether they did or not. I think that the Westerners (shall we call them) were taken with the exotic experience. I think they really had a splendid time. And I think probably some of them thought my goodness, these people are going to go for some sort of a new kind of status, how can they possibly manage it. But that's a very fleeting impression. I saw a lot of them formally and informally. The Soviet delegate is memorable. He's not a Russian; he was an Armenian, which gave him quite a different quality really. He was sort of a tall Ichabod Crane-type character, and he was particularly fascinated in Truk, I remember, because we were out on the lagoon and he'd never heard about snorkeling and he thought that was a great idea. So he wore my snorkeling mask and went over and looked at the Japanese fleet on the bottom which I thought was an interesting little international touch there, too. But then of course when the Russian was coming, then the Chinese kind of looked over the wall and thought they'd better get here too. Dr. Tan arrived in Truk. We'd already done the Marshalls and Ponape. Tan arrived in Truk with Charlie Sylvester as his guardian angel from our U.N. representation.
- Willens: Why do you think the Chinese representative came on this occasion?
- Trent: Well I surmised (as did others) that when he realized the Russian was coming, he'd better get there and see what was going on really in this little place out in the Pacific.
- Willens: Was the Russian representative antagonistic to the status negotiations under way?
- Trent: No indication. Actually I think he was a fish out of water.
- Willens: So he didn't bring to it any particular animosity or political bias?
- Trent: Not overtly or anything that I saw. He really seemed to be interested in the whole thing. He had apparently had no contact with the tropics or with that kind of place or people. He was very, very friendly. He gave no overt feeling of being hostile to anything. Dr. Tan, on the other hand, was a monolith. Of course I couldn't talk with him.
- Siemer: So he did not speak English?
- Trent: Well not to my recollection I guess.
- Siemer: Did any of them speak or have anybody with them who spoke any of the local dialects?
- Trent: No.
- Siemer: So the U.N. people relied on U.S.-supplied translators?
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: There is some indication in a memo that you wrote that the U.N. mission was unsympathetic toward the Marianas desire to obtain separate status.
- Trent: Well, I would stand by that. They really still had this concept of the Trust Territory.
- Willens: Why do you think they clung to that idea of unity?
- Trent: I don't really know. I can surmise (but it has no particular validity to it) that they thought here was a Trust Territory, let's get rid of this one, we're getting rid of Trust Territories around the world and if we start breaking it up it's going to be a mess. But that's my surmise.
- Willens: Did they perceive the differences among the districts that underlay the Marianas' desire for separate status?
- Trent: Well certainly because when they came back to the Marianas, of course, they spent quite a



time there on Saipan, and as you know they went to the other islands too. They had ample opportunity to see the cultural differences.

Willens: Do you remember any personal conversations with any of them about that subject?

Trent: No, I don't.

Siemer: How did the meetings typically go in those places if you remember on that occasion?

Trent: Well I attended a number of them. There was the local DistAd, the District Administrator. How were these set up? They were quite orderly and well arranged, and then representatives from various of the islands or groups would speak. These senior chiefs, Ponape I particularly remember, and also in Truk, participated. The U.N. people were active participants. They had good questions.

Siemer: Was there hesitancy on the part of the Micronesians in answering questions forthrightly?

Trent: No. My feeling was that they welcomed them. They were glad to have a chance to talk. I think I mentioned an incident on Saipan when Nakayama in particular was very concerned because he thought wrongly that I had inserted myself between him and Jim Murray or one of the U.N. people so that he couldn't have a direct conversation. When I got wind of the fact that he was feeling this at the lunch table, as soon as lunch was over I scrambled out of the way. But he was a bit perturbed on that subject.

Willens: Your memo suggests also that the mission came away with the idea that the Micronesians will take a very long time to make up their minds about status and would not agree quickly to any kind of permanent relationship. Does that strike any bell?

Trent: Yes it does. You didn't feel that anything was moving very fast with this mission, too. They were there, they were looking, I think they were honestly delving into the situation, but that they felt this was pretty far from resolution. I think they may have been surprised at the just plain administrative and logistic problems of making anything out of this (as we well know) bunch of islands scattered all over the Pacific Ocean.

Willens: Let's turn now to the next round of the Marianas negotiations, which took place in May and June of 1973. What was your assessment of the Tinian sentiment with respect to a proposed military facility?

Trent: Well I think they were ambivalent. Somehow they got the idea (at one point anyway) that if the military came this was going to be a big bonanza. Lots of jobs, lots of people, lots of money, and of course there was always the Jones Ranch in the background. What was going to happen to the Jones Ranch? They had visions of selling vegetables and doing awfully well with the incoming military.

Willens: Was it your understanding that the people on Tinian were aware of what the U.S. plans were before in fact they were revealed by Ambassador Williams and the delegation?

Trent: No, I have no reason to feel that.

Willens: Do you recall at the very outset of the negotiations there was a *Pacific Daily News* headline saying "U.S. Seeks All of Tinian" that represented a leak of the plans? Do you recall that?

Trent: Clearly I've forgotten that. I must have known it, but I did not recall that.

Willens: Do you recall what impact that leak had within the U.S. delegation in terms of your thinking or plans?

Trent: I have no particular recollection of that.

Willens: Did you participate from your position in Saipan in the formulation of the instructions that Ambassador Williams ultimately received?

Trent: No I didn't.

Willens: Did you have a personal view as to whether the first objective of seeking the entire island of Tinian was a good idea?

Trent: I realized that this was a military assessment that had to be made. Obviously I was in no position to judge whether we needed all of Tinian or not, and I simply was aware (as everybody was) what was going on Vietnam and the whole situation in the Philippines and the hush-hush about it was that nobody was to assume that maybe this was sort of a backup for any possible loss of Clark Field.

Willens: Was it your understanding that the Defense Department had in fact made a determination to build a base?

Trent: Well that was my feeling. I have no knowledge of that, but I felt that from the Defense Department. You could tell from the representatives who were out there that that was the plan.

Willens: Did they tell you that the plan had been approved by the Department and was ready to go to Congress if there was a successful negotiation?

Trent: I assumed that that was the case.

Willens: What is your recollection of the meetings over in Tinian at which the Ambassador and the staff stood up there and made presentations and answered questions.

Trent: I was present. I remember these. It was a close kind of contact, and the Tinianese I think appreciated that sort of thing. Then there was this whole business of was the village of San Jose to be replaced or evacuated or something of that kind.

Willens: What is your recollection now about that whole relocation issue?

Trent: Well I had something of a feeling that if this was going to be done it would be done and Tinian might just as well make the best of it. But there were those who were a little more active and vocal on the subject. I think they had a feeling all along of the prosperity and then some concern as to what was going to happen at this base, which of course was never spelled out to them.

Willens: Who were the major opponents of the U.S. presence on Tinian? Was Ken Jones one of them?

Trent: Yes. Ken Jones as I recall was somewhat ambivalent because of course he wanted to make money by having them come, but he didn't want to lose his ranch. I think he just was trying to see what kind of deal he could get out of the plan.

Willens: There was Mayor Borja to begin with and then Mayor Mendiola. Do you have any recollection of either of those two mayors?

Trent: Borja I particularly remember, because it was Borja who took me out and the two admirals who went out to see the bomb storage places. Well it's not a very vivid recollection of Borja. He was not a very vivid person. But he had pride in his little village and some curiosity I think about people wanting to come and see the bomb site.

Willens: He was replaced by Mendiola. Do you have any recollection of Mendiola?

Trent: I have to say I don't have a recollection of him at all.

- Willens: During this second round, there was a fair amount of discussion about self-government. Do you have any recollection today of how those issues were developed and assessed by the U.S. delegation?
- Trent: No. I don't think I can give any particular enlightenment on that.
- Willens: After that second round of negotiations, there was an interview of three Commission members in the *Marianas Variety*—Senator Palacios, Joeten and Felix Rabauliman. They complained publicly that the negotiations were proceeding too fast, that the United States was better prepared, that the MPSC was at a disadvantage. Do you have a recollection of that developing?
- Trent: Well, this was the Carolinian pullback.
- Willens: What prompted that, do you know?
- Trent: I would suppose that the basic feeling about Carolinians, that they were always getting the short end of the stick, and it was a racist or rather ethnic kind of thing I think basically.
- Willens: Did you ever discuss the status negotiations with Joeten either while he was a member of the Commission or after he resigned?
- Trent: I don't recall a specific discussion with him.
- Siemer: What was your sense at the time about how the business community viewed this possible change in status?
- Trent: I never had any feeling but that they were in favor of it. Always there was the financial consideration, and they felt this was going to be a good thing.
- Siemer: Healthy infrastructure and things of that sort?
- Trent: Yes. Bring people, business and that kind of thing.
- Willens: Did you have any dealings with Joe Screen while you were functioning as Liaison Officer?
- Trent: I don't seem to have a recollection of Joe Screen. No, I'm sorry, I have no recollection about him at all.
- Willens: One issue that came up between the rounds of negotiations related to a U.S.-declared moratorium on development of Tinian, and that prompted meetings by Ambassador Williams and Mr. Wilson with the Marianas Legislature and the MPSC leadership. Did you participate in any of those meetings?
- Trent: When did they take place?
- Willens: They took place in the summer of 1973 when there were complaints by Marianas political leaders and others about this moratorium that prevented homesteads from being granted on Tinian and so forth.
- Trent: I have no recollection of participating in that. I'm not saying I didn't. I don't have a recollection of it.
- Siemer: How much of your time were you spending worrying about Marianas reporting and how much was devoted to the other parts of Micronesia?
- Trent: Well that's a pertinent question. The relations with the other districts obviously involved a lot of travel. Of course I was right there on Saipan and I saw quite a lot of these people on a sort of daily basis at the grocery store or something like that. Going to the other districts, I did try to make it to there if there was something special coming up, and I did quite a

lot of travel out to them. I saw as my principal function getting to know these people, to finding out what their attitudes were and just staying in touch with them.

Siemer: So there wouldn't be surprises?

Trent: That was the hope, yes.

Siemer: Did you have in the other districts people whom you could call on the telephone, for example, to find out what was going on?

Trent: Yes, to a certain extent. I certainly could be in touch in the Marshalls with Amata, with the DistAd there, Oscar DeBrum, who was very helpful. He's from an old Portuguese family, an interesting guy. He's the one when one of the CINCPAC chiefs came through (not when I was there but before that) who fancied himself a championship tennis player, and someone set up a game with him and Oscar DeBrum, and he sort of went out carrying his tennis racket like what is this they've done to me?. Well Oscar wiped him off the court. Marvelous guy.

Willens: There is some indication that the subject of political education came up in the fall of 1973, and there was a meeting in Honolulu that you attended. The High Commissioner was there and Stanley Carpenter. This was the beginning of a discussion about what turned out to be the ESG—Education for Self-Government program. Where did that initiative come from? From the TTPI or the Ambassador?

Trent: I don't know.

Siemer: It wasn't going on when you got there in 1972?

Trent: No, not to my knowledge.

Willens: Do you recall what happened to the whole political education issue out there in Micronesia?

Trent: Well when the Marianas were getting along to the political education thing in the Canham era, it was something that kept being sort of discussed but not focused on, as far as I recall. But there again, the differences between the Chamorros and the Carolinians showed up.

Willens: How so?

Trent: Well, just what was political education? I mean what kind of slant is going to be taken in this political education business? Are we Carolinians going to get our fair share?

Willens: Who do you recall being sort of the leaders in the Carolinian community on issues like that?

Trent: Well Palacios came into it. It took me a little while to sort of get onto him and to realize who he was. I don't think he was as outspoken at the beginning as at the end. You know sometimes you see the significance of something in an entirely different context. I think I reported somewhere there about the arrival of these outrigger canoes on the beach at Saipan. And I just personally was terribly interested in this whole outrigger thing which was fascinating. So I went down quickly to see these come over the reef. They'd come 500 miles from Satawal in Yap. And of course they'd come to visit their Carolinian relatives on Saipan. And they brought with them these two perfectly enormous sea turtles to have the feast. I was so complimented because I was invited to come to the feast. And Chamorros were conspicuous by their absence.

Willens: Another issue that came up in the second and third rounds of the Marianas negotiations related to transitional planning—what kind of efforts should be undertaken to get the

- new prospective commonwealth on its way and what kind of U.S. funding would be available. Do you have any recollection of the discussions on the U.S. side with respect to transitional planning?
- Trent: Not in those details, no I don't.
- Willens: Was that an important issue, as you recall it?
- Trent: Well I'm sure it was. The fact that I'm not recalling it is not to downplay it. I just don't recall the details of it.
- Willens: Your report at the third round of negotiations contrasted the Commission's performance at the third round favorably with respect to the second round, suggesting they seemed more competent about the mission.
- Trent: I'm sure that's what I felt.
- Willens: Were there particular members of the Commission that you thought were assuming more vocal roles within the negotiations?
- Trent: Well I think of course over the time and the hard work, Eddie grew into more maturity.
- Willens: You mentioned Pete A. favorably in that memo. He had been recently added to the Commission.
- Trent: Oh, Pete A. Tenorio. Yes. I had forgotten that, but I don't question it.
- Willens: What is your recollection generally about the way in which the negotiations were conducted with the preparation of position papers and the open discussions? Did you regard that as a productive way to proceed?
- Trent: I did. Yes.
- Willens: Do you describe it as formal because there were written position papers, or did you think they became more formal as time progressed?
- Trent: No. I think that it was a formality, and I think that Haydn set it that way. I mean he maintained a dignity, which I think was very good and I think it was appreciated by those across the table. This was a negotiation, not just folks let's come and talk about it.
- Willens: Did you attend any rounds of the Micronesian negotiations to give you a basis for comparing the way in which those negotiations were conducted as contrasted with the Marianas negotiations?
- Trent: Now what is the answer to that, let me see.
- Willens: There was that Barbers Point . . . .
- Trent: Barbers Point, of course.
- Willens: You were there?
- Trent: Oh, I was. That was a sad one.
- Willens: You commented on that I think the last time we were together. I'm not too sure there was another session.
- Trent: I don't think so either. During the time I was there I don't believe there was another session.
- Willens: How did Ambassador Williams organize the staff to prepare for these rounds of negotiations with the Marianas?

- Trent: Well of course he'd done most of that in Washington or San Francisco before he got there. But nevertheless of course there were meetings of the group in which I was included. Each person clearly had his own background to pursue. The Defense Department pursued theirs and Herman Marcuse was detailed [from the Justice Department] for legal matters. And I was charged all along with just trying to stay in touch with the Micronesian people concerned and to try to report as best I could both verbally when they were there or otherwise by cable on their attitudes and responses.
- Willens: There is reference in one of the memoranda to a personal meeting that Ambassador Williams had with Ed Pangelinan, Mr. Santos and Joe Cruz in which those three Commission members told the Ambassador that they supported the two-thirds request for Tinian but that it would take time to bring their constituents along. Were you present at that meeting?
- Trent: Not to my recollection.
- Willens: Do you recall any discussion of his meeting with those three individuals?
- Trent: No, I don't.
- Willens: At the fourth round of negotiations your memo said that the Marianas draft Status Agreement almost derailed the negotiations because of the perception on the U.S. side that they had been promised a reaction to the U.S. draft.
- Trent: I remember that.
- Willens: What is your recollection of that event?
- Trent: Well I think it was consternation. I don't remember details of that at all, but it seemed to present a considerable obstacle when this came.
- Willens: What did the Ambassador do to try to deal with the unexpected development of that kind?
- Trent: I really don't recall.
- Willens: Do you know whether he made any effort with Ed Pangelinan or Mr. Santos to persuade the Commission to withdraw its draft agreement?
- Trent: I do not know.
- Siemer: In between rounds of discussions, did Haydn call you from the States from time to time to ask for particular information?
- Trent: Yes. And I would call him if there were anything special.
- Siemer: Would you have to go to Guam to make or receive those calls?
- Trent: It depended on the nature of the call. Frequently it could be. And of course there was the difference in time. One had to adjust that. And sometimes I called Jim Wilson in Washington.
- Siemer: The facilities in Saipan were regarded as secure telephones?
- Trent: No. I mean I would just say I'm planning to go to Ponape tomorrow, that's where I'll be, or something like that. Saipan was a leaky hole, and anything that I did was well known. And the girls up in the communications room were always wondering, now what does this mean?
- Siemer: So if you were on Saipan you would be using the High Commissioner's cable and telephone facilities?

- Trent: Yes.
- Siemer: What was your impression about how the High Commissioner perceived this State Department liaison office over there?
- Trent: Really part of the diplomatic aspect of this job, if I can describe it that way, was sort of getting along with the High Commissioner. We got along just in our separate tracks. I think there are indications in reporting where sometimes I had the opportunity (which of course I was glad to take it, even to seek on some occasions) of talking at a staff meeting of the High Commissioner and any briefing there. I think he had a feeling that I was there to look over his shoulder and see how he was doing. I believe I was scrupulous, I certainly tried to be, in the relationship with him. He was the boss of the government, so I shared with him whatever was appropriate. We entertained. I've been in their house and they've been in mine.
- Siemer: Did the High Commissioner have a person on his staff who had the same kind of function that you did, which was understanding what was going on in the community and reporting that back from time to time?
- Trent: I don't think I can point to anyone whom I identified as that.
- Siemer: Did you deal with Neiman Craley at all?
- Trent: Yes. The Craleys lived right next door to me, and they were obviously thoroughly clued into the Micronesian community. Janet, as you know, was the secretary of the Congress. I guess it was to Neiman that I would go if I really needed some kind of suggestion, advice, assistance or something out of the High Commissioner's office. Well even getting a house to live in, I had to negotiate that with one of the people who was leaving. I said I'm going to put my trunk here and sit. So there was no facilitation of my coming in and being there.
- Siemer: The governmental organization was not as good as the Embassy in Indonesia.
- Trent: I think they really had not been (this is the kindest way probably of looking at it) properly briefed as to who I was and what this was all about.
- Siemer: Did they know that there was a successor to Dorrance coming?
- Trent: Well they must have. Neiman is a person I remember from that, and he turned over to me a clunky old car, but it was probably all they had, that I could have until I was able to arrange to get a little Datsun out there, because there's no way of getting around of course.
- Siemer: How long was it before you got housing?
- Trent: Well I went off to Ponape immediately, so that was a couple of months almost or six weeks or something in Ponape, where Leo Falcam, the DistAd there, was helpful. He gave me quite an acceptable house under the circumstances. Then when I got back I didn't have anything. I went back to the good old Royal Taga Hotel. Then there was a little house near the Congress of Micronesia which they said I could have. Well it just didn't seem the spot where I should be. So I did find one of the houses on Capitol Hill. I learned that somebody was about to leave, so I went around and did some negotiating on that. And I got some State Department funds to paint it and have it fairly representative for a State Department person.
- Siemer: How about the DistAd's office in Saipan at that time? Did you have close contact with them?

- Trent: No I really didn't. It was perfectly all right contact, but I mean not particularly close.
- Willens: Did you have any impression as to the views of the High Commissioner or Mr. Craley about these separate negotiations?
- Trent: I had a feeling they were not friendly to them.
- Willens: What was the basis of your sense to that effect?
- Trent: It's really just a sense, and I think part of it was because I felt their suspicion of me so much, and I was so geared obviously to the separation and the separate negotiations. I suppose the High Commissioner maybe saw his kingdom falling apart; I don't know.
- Willens: But your duties were not limited to the separate negotiations.
- Trent: Oh, not at all. But they knew that the U.S. government was going in that direction, that I represented the U.S. government, and I was the nearest one to bash. But the bashing was subtle.
- Willens: The DistAd in the Marianas at that time was Frank Ada, and there came a time when some of the Tinian politicians were proposing a referendum on Tinian as to whether the people on Tinian supported the U.S. plan, and this was a source of some considerable concern with the U.S. side, and the issue was before Ada as to whether he would permit it to go forward. One memo here suggests that you should not be present at a meeting between Ed Pangelinan and Frank Ada as to this referendum. Did you ever have a conversation with Mr. Ada as to why he refused to approve the referendum?
- Trent: No. That's an interesting question, but I cannot answer it. I mean I have no recollection of any conversation with him on that point.
- Willens: Do you have a recollection at all about the whole referendum issue?
- Trent: Yes. I know it existed.
- Willens: Was it regarded as something that the United States thought would be an obstacle if it were held?
- Trent: Well I think the U.S. is probably always pretty careful about a referendum. Finding out how people feel, is something we basically support. But what it does to negotiations is something else, so that it was not considered a useful thing to do at that point.
- Willens: Is it correct then, that sometime in late 1974 you left Saipan?
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: Do you remember approximately when that was?
- Trent: Yes. In fact I was trying to review that. It must have been in June of 1974.
- Willens: June, that would have been sort of right after the fourth round of negotiations.
- Trent: That's right. I remember just about the last thing I did was a report on the fourth round, and then we had sort of a farewell dinner at the Admiral's house on Guam. And you see I'd had two years there, and it was just coming to the end of my time really.
- Willens: Was your replacement on duty at that point?
- Trent: Al Bergesen. Have you talked with him?
- Willens: No.
- Trent: Well I hope he still exists. I have a sad feeling that maybe he doesn't. But we had a



conversation, we had briefings and that sort of thing. And he and his wife, who is an awfully nice person, and the house was ready for them, and . . .

Siemer: They moved into your house?

Trent: Yes. I didn't let it go.

Siemer: Had you known him before the assignment?

Trent: No. But you see John had a perfectly fine house, but he let it go. So that's what happened there. I think John could hardly wait to get out of there. He had done his thing and done it brilliantly. But it was a little hard to follow, and of course the Trust Territory government, not surprisingly, said well, we'll put somebody in there with a family, which they did, into John's house. But the Bergesens must have stayed a couple of days in the hotel or something while I was moving out of the house, and then they moved right in.

Siemer: Do you remember where he came from, what assignment he came from?

Trent: I don't remember.

Siemer: When you were doing your reporting from out there, did you have a particular numbering sequence that you used for your reports.

Trent: Yes, I sort of noticed that in the cables, too.

Siemer: Sometimes you numbered them, and it looked like sometimes you used one system and sometimes you used another system.

Trent: Well certainly I thought I was using one system all the way through.

Siemer: So you were going to number them sequentially?

Trent: Yes. That was my aim, which I thought I did, but maybe it fell apart somewhere. I don't know.

Siemer: It may have been that there were just a few, for example that either went from Guam on a different subject or something that were not considered to be in your regular reporting system.

Trent: Yes. And sometimes it's a little bit hard. You have to scrounge around to find out whom it came from. Sometimes there's a Trent on it and sometimes there's something else. But I did try to keep it sequential. And of course the files were all there, and I went over the files and all that with Al Bergesen.

Siemer: What would you have left out there by way of files when you turned them over to Bergesen?

Trent: Copies of all these things.

Siemer: Copies of all your transmissions?

Trent: Yes, and of incoming too. I had a secure system. Oh, I should tell you this that finally a State Department inspector came to see what was going on in this odd spot.

Siemer: Oh, when was that?

Trent: Well just before I left. I had been begging for somebody to come, because this was such an odd arrangement, and it really needed some logistic support. Well, I will not bother you with details, but the Embassy in Manila was supposed to be my State Department backup. Well it so happened that it was very important to me, because of assignment and retirement and all that sort of thing. And the Embassy in Manila never did it. I didn't

know they were supposed to, so I didn't know I was missing anything. But I thought I am just really out here, and there's nobody. I've just got to know where I hang in. So I kept saying surely somebody could stop by on their way to Sydney or Tokyo or somewhere. Well this splendid person came, and he thought he'd stop off between planes to see this little operation. He could hardly believe his eyes and ears, what we'd been doing. He stayed for two days, and he wrote an absolutely wonderful report, which of course pleased me to pieces, but it was too late. And dear Haydn, who wasn't clued into the State Department at all, sort of frequently didn't get around to writing reports about people. But then this nice man, and his next assignment was DCM in Islamabad, and so he and his wife invited me to stop with them in Islamabad as I flew out of China on my way home, which was pretty nice. But that's a digression of course, except that this happened just before Al Bergesen came. So Al arrived with people in the State Department knowing what this was all about and how to clue in, and the Embassy in Manila was alerted to remember that place out there.

Siemer: Where was your office actually located?

Trent: Well, in a big old bunker. It had been the headquarters I guess of the Japanese. No windows. You came in, and there was a second story, and the communications people were upstairs. Over here on the left was my office and then the finance man of the Trust Territory, a dear man who just couldn't stay out of the bottle. Then finally when I had a secretary, of course she shared the office, and then a little piece right out of the office was shared by another TT person.

Siemer: That's where all your files were.

Trent: Yes. But that's why I had to be very careful about security every time I went out, I mean to secure everything.

Siemer: So you finally did get a locked file cabinet and things of that sort?

Trent: Oh yes, combination. And that's the reason for bringing in this inspector, just to be sure that we were okay.

Willens: Could you give us just for the record your impressions of a few of your colleagues on the U.S. delegation? For example, Ambassador Williams. How would you describe his attributes and his performance on this assignment?

Trent: Well I think he was absolutely dedicated to the job. I think he felt American interests were heavily involved here, and that specifically with regard to the Marianas to secure this as a permanent relationship to the United States was a great achievement for American presence, American expansion, American prestige. He was zealous, tireless in his productivity. Of course he kept his work with the Asia Foundation, and I don't know how that particularly worked. It meant that he shared his time between San Francisco and Washington often, but he certainly was present when he felt he could be and when he felt he should be. He had a sort of fatherly feeling about his staff. His staff liked him very much. He had a family sort of feeling, so that often later on when he came to Washington he would do his best to gather in the flock and then have dinner or something like that. Very, very friendly. I personally have visited both Ambassador and Mrs. Williams in San Francisco. I believe I can say this: we're on a very friendly basis. I appreciated the feeling of his support. Doubtless there are times when I didn't perform what he might like, but I recall no particular incident. So I felt a sense of support there. I felt that since he was not clued into State Department background or procedures, that that made it a little bit hard administratively for me, which he was not in a position to appreciate really. But from my

point of view, I realized he was the President's personal representative to do this job, and I was sent out to help him do it. And I could do it with good conscience.

Willens: How did he deal with these many issues that related to State, Defense and Interior? What was your assessment of the way in which he tried to elicit or develop a consensus from those often conflicting agencies?

Trent: Well I think he kept the balls very nicely going. His own personality of friendliness would have elicited a good response from them. Of course I was not involved in what must have been his higher consultations with Defense and State particularly. But to see him in relationship to those Department representatives on his team, certainly it was a friendly and constructive one.

Willens: Did he seem to you to have some different sense about the Micronesian negotiations as contrasted with the Marianas negotiations?

Trent: Well I don't know this, but I think because of his really tremendously patriotic feelings for the United States and its prestige, I guess when he saw that there was this possibility of the commonwealth relationship and this situation here, that that obviously struck a chord of great sympathy with him. But I must say that I never saw anything but really earnest and honest attempts on his part to meet and negotiate with the other Micronesians as best he could. In other words, to give them a certain due respect which he felt I think.

Willens: How about Mr. Wilson? Had you ever worked with him before?

Trent: No. I hadn't known Jim Wilson at all; nor had I known Haydn. He had a background in that part of the world. He'd been at the Embassy in Manila. Well I think he'll have to give you his own comments.

Willens: But from what you saw, he and Haydn worked well together?

Trent: Yes.

Siemer: Had they worked together before?

Trent: Not to my knowledge.

Siemer: How did Wilson get assigned to Haydn's team?

Trent: I don't know how that came about.

Siemer: How did Admiral Crowe get assigned to the team?

Trent: Well, he thought it was the end of the road for him. I think he chafed under it and he was suddenly rescued.

Siemer: Well that was largely Haydn Williams' doing, was it not? Didn't Haydn support Crowe and write wonderful reviews?

Trent: I think so, yes. That's certainly my impression. Yes indeed. There's no question about that. No, Haydn was extremely helpful there, and it pulled Bill out of what might have been the end of an absolutely magnificent career.

Siemer: How was Erwin Canham selected to be the Plebiscite Commissioner?

Trent: Well I did call him up and ask him about this. Actually Haydn had the original idea, which I'm delighted to pay tribute to him for. And the minute he mentioned it, I thought oh, that would just be great. Now how Haydn knew or had worked with Erwin, but he had in some sort of an international aspect. And Erwin had just really retired from his

editorship of the *Christian Science Monitor*. So when Haydn said that, I said, "Well, let's get in touch with him."

Siemer: How did you know him?

Trent: I'd known the Canhams for a long time. So I called him, and the conversation was just something like this. I said, "Now if President Ford should ask you to go out and do this job, would you be interested in doing it?" He thought about it for just about 30 seconds, and said, "Well, it sounds like fun." So I said, "Well I guess that's a yes, isn't it?" And he said, "Yes, that is a yes." So we initiated the papers and all that sort of thing.

Siemer: Was there any opposition to him?

Trent: As far as I know, everybody thought this was a great idea.

Siemer: Were any other candidates ever discussed?

Trent: Not to my recollection. Because he had no axe to grind. He'd had a lot of U.N. contacts and experience, of course, not working for but as an international journalist.

Siemer: This plebiscite business though wasn't something that Erwin had ever done before, was it?

Trent: I have a vague feeling that he'd done something like that somewhere, but I can't dredge that up. I'm not sure. But of course his experience was particularly good with regard to the education program, because he knew the use of radio and publicity, etc. And he was known as a fair person of integrity.

Siemer: So his U.N. experience is relevant because he would be sensitive to how the U.N. might react to certain things?

Trent: Oh yes, and how the U.N. functions and the function of the Trusteeship Council.

Siemer: Were you back at OMSN by that time?

Trent: Yes.

Siemer: How had that transition worked? You had finished your 30 years I guess in 1974?

Trent: Yes.

Siemer: So then what happened? How did you wind up at OMSN?

Trent: The State Department put me back on rolls as a Foreign Service Reserve Officer.

Siemer: So you were required to retire after 30 years?

Trent: I was at that point. That was one of the problems with the Embassy at Manila, because I didn't know this until too late. But that worked out all right. So then the FSR appointment was made.

Siemer: Then how did you get to OMSN?

Trent: Well, Haydn had requested me. I guess that's the answer to that one. Because I wouldn't have been put back on the rolls unless there were a specific purpose.

Siemer: How long was it after you left Saipan that you started to work at OMSN?

Trent: Well there was quite a gap in there because first, I had leave, and then initiating this procedure, so it must have been fairly toward the end of 1974.

Siemer: Do you recall whether it was before the beginning of the fifth round in December of 1974?

- Trent: I was actually just trying to reconstruct that, because I was aware of the dates. I think it must have been before that. I was around for that.
- Siemer: How did the thinking evolve toward a Plebiscite Commissioner, for example rather than having the High Commissioner just run this election like every other election out there in the Trust Territory?
- Trent: I don't know. I wasn't in on any discussion of that aspect.
- Siemer: Once Erwin was appointed, what was done to sort of get him up to speed on this assignment?
- Trent: Oh there was considerable briefing. He came to Washington and saw everybody concerned in all the departments. He was very much at home in Washington.
- Siemer: Did he have a chance to talk to Haydn?
- Trent: Oh yes. Now I can't be sure whether he talked with Haydn here or in San Francisco, but I think right here. I'm sure Haydn was here when he came down. They must have put that together.
- Siemer: Was there any sense of urgency about the amount of time available to Erwin to do this work before the plebiscite at the time that you called him to find out if he'd be available?
- Trent: Urgency on his part?
- Siemer: Urgency on your part?
- Trent: Like, get going with this?
- Siemer: Were people worried about how much time was needed to do this?
- Trent: I don't recall a particular worry about it, but just the feeling well let's get on with it.
- Willens: Were you aware at the time that there was a Micronesian Constitutional Convention that was scheduled for the summer of 1975?
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: That had some relationship to the plebiscite timing?
- Trent: That had sort of left my thought. I remember that was scheduled, yes.
- Siemer: Do you remember consideration of how the Trusteeship Council was going to get itself organized to send observers to the plebiscite at that point?
- Trent: I don't remember about how it worked that out. Barbara White was our member on the Trusteeship Council, and she had come out by herself, not with other Trusteeship Council members, shortly before I left Micronesia, so that she had a first hand view of things.
- Siemer: By then it was pretty clear that the negotiations were going to wrap up successfully?
- Trent: Yes.
- Siemer: So she came out and took a look?
- Trent: Yes. And I took her around.
- Siemer: What was her view at the time about any difficulties that she might face in the Trusteeship Council if these negotiations concluded satisfactorily?
- Trent: I don't recall. This was an educational trip for her, and that's what we talked about. I don't recall that she was particularly apprehensive. Of course there's always the feeling well what

are the Soviets going to do about this. But they obviously decided that the game wasn't worth the candle.

Siemer: There seemed to be some concern back when Erwin was appointed that the Trusteeship Council was not scheduled to meet until late May and that there was no way to get observers out there until the Council met. So there was some question as to whether you should schedule a plebiscite in the middle of June. Do you recall anything about that concern?

Trent: A little bit, but obviously it worked out to go ahead on that time schedule.

Siemer: What was your sense of Barbara White? Had you known her before?

Trent: No.

Siemer: What kind of a person was she?

Trent: We were sort of travel companions out there. She was very interested in seeing and learning as much as possible. That's just about all I know really.

Siemer: What do you recall about the plans for the education for self-government program that Erwin was going to get together?

Trent: The evolution of that program you mean? Well there was considerable work done on that. I was not involved so I can't comment.

Siemer: Who did work on that, or where would that work have been done?

Trent: I just don't know.

Siemer: How about the Secretarial Order? Who did that work?

Trent: I don't know.

Siemer: Was there much State Department involvement?

Trent: There was one young State Department lawyer by the name of Tom Johnson. I think he must have been the State Department representative on that particular thing.

Siemer: Once Erwin went out to the Marianas, did you have further contact with him while he was out there?

Trent: Yes. Several times by telephone for some reason or other. We were in frequent touch with him.

Siemer: What was your sense of how it was going?

Trent: Well, that it was moving right along. He wasted no time in setting up things. He's a very can-do person. He moved that way. He knew his way around with the press, and the PDN and all those on Guam were pretty impressed at having him there. And he's such a friendly, delightful person that it was awfully nice. And right away he made friends with the Marianas people. I mean here was a done deal, and it was to be explained to the people. And he had laid out the plans for the voter registration. And sending the ships up to Pagan and a plane to Pagan and a ship way up those little Northern Islands, so it was administratively an interesting thing. And then Neiman Craley of course was assigned by the High Commissioner to work with him, which I guess was an awfully good assignment, very helpful.

Siemer: Do you know how that happened? How Neiman was nominated to do that?

Trent: No.

- Siemer: What do you recall was being done in Washington in your office during that time that Erwin was out there trying to get the plebiscite organized?
- Trent: I can't quite reconstruct that clearly, backing him up in every way.
- Siemer: Did he need backup from Washington once he got out there?
- Trent: No, but I think just to be assured that we were following it and right with him on the thing. He set out right away, as I was mentioning, to get at it and know people, learn his way around and get the thing cracking. And to set up his headquarters out there, which quite rightly were removed from the Trust Territory building headquarters.
- Siemer: What do you recall about what happened after the plebiscite vote was in, when people began to turn their attention to Congress and getting it approved?
- Trent: Well of course then there began to be out there apparently some feeling of well if we don't like something about this we'll run around them and get to Congress, get to Phil Burton and some of those people, then we'll see what we can do about it. So then it became a matter of battening down the hatches.
- Siemer: Did you work on the campaign to get approval in Congress?
- Trent: I participated in it, but really that was pretty well orchestrated I think by the other members of Haydn's team, Jim Wilson's team. Of course Bill Crowe was gone by this time; Jim Wilson was there.
- Siemer: Who else was working with you at OMSN at the time?
- Trent: Adrian de Graffenreid and Dick Wyttenbach. Herman [Marcuse] of course was not specifically right there, but he was certainly part of the team always. Then there was a person at State, Dick somebody who was terribly nice and helpful, but I just can't seem to pull his last name out.
- Siemer: How about Loftus and Knowles?
- Trent: Oh yes. Then there was the economist . . .
- Willens: Sol Silver?
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: They never mentioned Dick Scott.
- Trent: Oh, Dick Scott. Of course he was the Navy representative.
- Willens: Did he succeed you?
- Trent: Well I think he actually had the designation as Director of OMSN.
- Willens: While you were there?
- Trent: Yes. Well then there was Rog Crump, Colonel Crump, Army, and Steve Loftus, yes, he came in. And then you mentioned Jack Knowles. Now I remember somebody named that, but I don't recall. Where was he from?
- Siemer: There was a period at least when Mr. Loftus was writing memos for Haydn that Jim Wilson would routinely reject and send back to be written over again. Or he would write them over again. It seemed like poor Mr. Loftus had a great deal of difficulty doing what Haydn wanted or doing it precisely as he wanted. That was why I asked you about him.
- Trent: I see. That's something you knew more about than I did.

- Siemer: Well sometimes it's very difficult to tell from the documents what was really going on with the human beings.
- Trent: Of course. That's it. That's true. Well Jim Wilson of course was Director of OMSN.
- Siemer: Was he Director when you got there?
- Trent: Yes. He had come out several times to the islands, and I had accompanied him on various trips around.
- Willens: Was that always the way it was, that the number two person would be the Director of the office, going back to Bill Crowe for example?
- Trent: Well let's see. In my early days Bill Crowe was Director of the office. Then he was succeeded by Jim Wilson.
- Siemer: Did Jim retire from there? Or did he go back to State?
- Trent: I'm not sure.
- Siemer: Then who came after him?
- Trent: Well perhaps it was Dick Scott, who had a Navy captain rank. I think it probably was he.
- Siemer: Then how long did you stay until you retired?
- Trent: 1976.
- Siemer: Had the Covenant been approved by Congress by then?
- Trent: Yes. That must have been, because I went out on the plane with the Canhams for the celebration of the approval.
- Siemer: Now had the Resident Commissioner appointment been made by that time?
- Trent: I'm not sure.
- Siemer: When did you all go back? Was it right after the Congressional approval?
- Trent: It must have been. Yes.
- Siemer: What happened on that trip?
- Trent: Well that was of course a very festive occasion.
- Siemer: Who went on the trip besides Haydn and Erwin and his wife and you?
- Trent: You know Jim Berg was active in all this, and I just wonder if Jim went.
- Siemer: I don't remember him talking about it.
- Trent: It started out with a great feeling you know that Haydn would bring his "family", because he really had that very fine feeling about all of us who'd worked with him. But then we had all kinds of logistical troubles with the Department of Defense and getting on the plane and all that kind of thing. So the group was cut down drastically.
- Siemer: What happened when your group arrived out there?
- Trent: Oh well you know we were royally met, in the way that these people are so good at putting on receptions. The ceremonial aspect was great.
- Siemer: What kind of ceremonies did they have? We haven't found anyone who recalled exactly what the celebration was and how they did it.



- Trent: It was sort of a triumphal feeling, but I have to say strange as it may seem that I don't recall any particular details of it.
- Siemer: There must have been a tremendous sense of accomplishment for Haydn.
- Trent: Oh of course it was. And he was just euphoric about the park, Micro Beach Park.
- Siemer: American Memorial Park?
- Trent: He always loved to call it the Williams Memorial Park. I don't know.
- Willens: Where did that idea come from, do you know?
- Trent: Well that goes way back into the negotiations I think. The Carolinians were pleased about that way back and felt that they wanted to be sure that Managaha, the little island, was included in that. And I remember seeing somewhere along the line, yes do this if you can because it's dear to the heart of the Carolinians.
- Siemer: But the sense was that the Micro Beach Park was also sort of a special thing for the Carolinians.
- Trent: An area that they felt was traditionally theirs, yes.
- Willens: When the opposition developed in the Senate to the Covenant, do you have any recollection of what the strategy was for dealing with it?
- Trent: I wish I could reconstruct that or that I even recall it, but I can't. I remember there was a Senator from West Virginia, not Byrd, the other one, and I just remember that he was trying to find out if there was any iron in Micronesia. The way that he pronounced it, Haydn, who was to respond, could not understand what the man was talking about. So I remember saying i-r-o-n, iron. Well no, we haven't found any iron in the Marianas.
- Willens: Was that whole effort then pretty much coordinated by Haydn when he was in town?
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: Was Jim Wilson still on board at that time?
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: Did you personally ever go up and brief any Senators or staff members?
- Trent: No, I was along on a couple of the smaller sessions with some staff members. Adrian Winkel of course was one. Of course Phil Burton's office. And Senator Burdick of North Dakota. He was one person who sort of knew what we were talking about, because he'd been on the Territorial Committee, and he'd even been out there. And while he was sort of quiet and soft-spoken about things, he really knew what we were talking about. For everybody else, it was sort of bottom of the in-basket.
- Willens: By that time the Defense Department had decided not to build the base.
- Trent: Yes.
- Willens: Do you recall any reaction within the U.S. delegation when they heard from the Defense Department to that effect?
- Trent: Well the feeling was my goodness we've tried so hard and now you don't want it.
- Willens: Did you ever come to learn what had prompted that change in position?
- Trent: I didn't. I'm curious these years later, but I didn't pursue it at that point.

- Willens: Did you ever personally meet with Congressman Burton on the subject of the Marianas or Micronesia in general?
- Trent: No. Of course I saw Burton. He came out to visit; he was very active. I never met with him personally myself.
- Siemer: He didn't come out when you were out there?
- Trent: No. But he must have come some other time. I wonder if he came at the time when I went out with the Canhams. But he did not come while I was on duty in Micronesia.
- Siemer: Have you been back to the Marianas after you went out there right at the approval?
- Trent: Yes, but not in any official connection. It was when I was with a Smithsonian tour.
- Willens: All right. That completes our interview. Any last-minute observations about this historic experience in this little remote part of the world?
- Trent: Well, when I first hit it I thought that either this is a disastrous experience or you make something interesting out of it, and because I knew from a career point of view it was kind of end of the line, but I thought all right, who has a chance of getting to know something about these Pacific Islands? And I'm of a generation who remembered the headlines of the newspapers of all across the Pacific, the World War II actions and so forth. So I've known of these places before, and here they are. And the Enola Gay flying out of Tinian. So it spoke something of that kind of situation. I thought well I'll just really learn something about these people and these islands, and this is a negotiation that is a unique one for us. So I set to. And I had a very interesting time. I never had a feeling of being lonesome. There was always something that was interesting happening, and even keeping up these relationships with OMSN and with the people back here took a certain amount of energy and planning because of the time difference that you had to do that. It was a very good experience and one I enjoyed.
- Willens: We want to thank you very much for being available to help us on this project.
- Trent: You're very welcome. It was an interesting time for me, and I'm so glad to have the opportunity of seeing you all again.
- Willens: Thank you.