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August 1, 1973

Mr. Edward DLG. Pangelinan, Chairman  
Marianas Political Status Commission  
P. O. Box 825  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Ed:

I received a courtesy copy today of a letter dated July 26 from Ambassador Williams to you regarding our negotiations. He indicates that the letter is being carried to you by Jim Wilson. I have no basic problem with the letter but I want to place before you the way in which Jim Leonard and I would like to proceed with these working groups.

(1) With respect to the activation of working groups, I am not very impressed with the rapidity with which the United States Delegation has moved. I spoke with Brewster Chapman today and he is very reluctant to have any meeting of the legal group until he and I have met personally to discuss the working of the group. This is frankly not the way that I prefer to work and I intend to continue to press for an early meeting of the entire working group. He and I are scheduled to have lunch on August 13 upon my return from vacation. At that time I also intend to contact Jim Wilson and ask that a firm date be established for a meeting of the working group on economics and finance. I intend to propose a date in the week of August 20.

(2) With respect to the co-chairmen of the working groups, I would propose that I be designated as

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the co-chairman of the legal working group and that Jim Leonard be so designated with respect to the economic and finance group. I do not believe it would be either necessary or desirable for members of the Commission themselves to undertake these responsibilities.

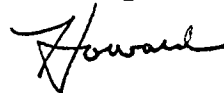
(3) As Jim Leonard and I understand these working groups, they are intended to explore further certain subjects referred to in the Joint Communique. As representatives of the Commission we will be operating within the policies established by the Commission during our negotiations as reflected in the Joint Communique. Obviously we will take no new policy position on behalf of the Commission without checking with you in advance. It is possible that we will exchange working papers in the course of the Committee meetings but we will make it clear that such papers have not been officially reviewed and approved by the Commission. I think this will enable us to do our work most effectively on behalf of the Commission and still give you the flexibility to express your own views at a time when the work product of the working groups is presented to you at a later date.

(4) Jim Leonard and I will be working closely in connection with all of the Committee activities. As I have indicated in previous letters, I believe that we should insist on discussion of the land problem, including military requirements, before the next session of negotiations. Jim and I will be sending you reports of all meetings with representatives of the U.S. Delegation and copies of all materials developed or exchanged in the course of this Committee work.

I hope that the above meets with your general approval. If you have any comments or suggestions about the Committee work, please let us know. In particular, let us have the benefit of any thoughts you may have as a result of discussions with Jim Wilson in Saipan.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

cc: Mr. James E. White  
Mr. James R. Leonard