

Phase I Legal Plan

FACT FINDING

A. Election procedures and costs.

1. What political education now precedes elections in the Marianas and rest of the TIPI? Describe the techniques, manpower, and costs.

2. What have been the administrative costs of an election in the Marianas -- with a short ballot and, alternatively, with a longer ballot?

3. Some helpful facts:

(a) The number of persons now eligible to register to vote in the Marianas. The number actually registered to vote. The number who voted in each of the last two major elections.

(b) The cost of publishing a 20-page black and white pamphlet in a quantity sufficient to provide one to each person eligible to register to vote.

(c) The radio stations which might be used for political education. What would be the cost of buying radio time -- alternatively, for a one-minute spot and for a 15-minute program for both (i) prime time and (ii) another time.

(d) The television stations which might be used. Give cost estimates for the same options as with radio.

(e) The monthly salary and other monthly expenses for a typical political education officer.

B. Constitutional Conventions and Legislative Sessions.

1. What were the costs, in as much detail as possible, of any earlier conferences to establish the Congress of Micronesia?

2. Give the cost estimates, in as much detail as possible, underlying the financial request in the recent bill before the Congress of Micronesia to convene a Constitutional Convention. Was there much discussion of these estimates and, if so, what were the key issues?

3. What are the typical salary and expenses per day paid to Senators and Representatives in the Congress of Micronesia? To legislators in the Marianas District Legislature? To members of the Marianas Political Status Commission?

4. What are the total costs per month of a session of the Congress of Micronesia? Of the Marianas District Legislature? Of the Marianas Political Status Commission?

C. Development of Legislative Program.

1. What is the present size and cost per month of the legislative staff of the Congress of Micronesia when in session? Of the legislative staff of the Marianas District Legislature?

2. What was the size of staff, costs, and time required to prepare the initial legislative program for the Congress of Micronesia when it was first established?