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53

Initial Lawyer Working Group Meeting

- B. Chapman
- T. Johnson
- H. Marcuse
- H. Willens -
- 4 additional attorneys from Willens Office
- H. Leonard

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The group agenda centered on four primary areas of discussion :

(1) citizenship vs. nationality

Herman Marcuse is to contact the Immigration Bureau and to use the DOJ immigration section to obtain information on the ability of the US delegation to offer in a plebiscite the choice between US citizenship and US National status, as well as other relevant data. also working with Herman on the formulation of approaches after the information is obtained is B.Chapman and T. Johnson.

(2) laws to be immediately applicable to the Marianas by virtue of the Commonwealth (territorial) status

Herman is to obtain a master list from the DOJ computer of all laws that would automatically apply by virtue of territorial status. The group will then examine the list to determine which should not be made applicable to the Marianas. The US Constitution will also be examined as will the privileges and immunities clause and applicability.

(4)

(3) Article IV, Section 3, clause 2. &/mutual consent for change in status

will be re-examined in light of the request of the MPSC (check against the MPSC working paper positions and the delegation lawyers memcons)

Two other items of discussion were placed on the agenda : the applicable court system and a provision for a 5 year review period, both of which have been deferred for discussion after a review of the items above. A memcon of the meeting will be prepared by Willens & Co. The next scheduled meeting is 11 September, 9:30 in Chapman's Office.

*to be done
before
Sept 10
to be done
from M.C.F.*

[For Information only, not discussed in the meeting and are working assignments and comments and observations made.]

Before the next meeting, Herman will insure that a copy of the word-scanner list of all the applicable laws to be extended immediately upon a change in status will be given to the attorneys. Initial work on the citizenship and nationality issue will go forward after Herman has had a chance to get basic information from the DOJ immigration branch.

It should be remembered that the next round of negotiations will take place sometime after 15 November. There should be more than adequate time to conclude the working group of attorneys agenda before the next round. The primary work load should come from Willens and his firm, as his clients are the ones making the initial requests for changes and adaptations, and until they come forward with their work and more refined positions, the US delegation will not be prepared to know how to respond and may find itself without room to maneuver or negotiate issues.

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