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

Dear Ed:

This letter is in the nature of a status report regarding our current activities here in Washington. You may be interested in the following:

- (1) There has been some recent newspaper publicity regarding the creation of yet another ad hoc advisory group to study the U.S. - Puerto Rico relationship. Enclosed is a memorandum to me from Barry Carter on this subject. We will be following the steps recommended by Barry unless you feel that some more extensive effort is required.
- (2) We had the second meeting of the Working Committee on Political/Legal issues last week. Progress in this particular committee promises to be very slow. We reviewed the following matters:
 - (a) The United States has basically accepted the proposal which we advanced during the last session of negotiations on the citizenship/nationality issue. They have now given us a draft proposal for our technical review. Although we will have no difficulty in responding to the draft and submitting one more to our liking, there are a variety of policy questions in this area which should be considered at some time by the Commission.

Specifically, we spent a good deal of time with the United States representatives analyzing whether particular groups of people now residing in the Marianas should be eligible for the status of U.S. citizen or national. At some point we will want to get your views in more detail on this kind of problem so that we can prepare a draft provision which accurately reflects the policy preferences of the Commission.

- (b) We were given several computer printouts prepared by the Department of Justice of all laws applicable through December 31, 1971 to the TTPI and all other U.S. Territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Mr. Chapman now expects us to review the hundreds, if not thousands, of laws listed on these printouts and identify those laws which the Marianas would like to be made applicable or inapplicable by express reference in the Status Agreement. Based upon Jay's review of the printouts, we have set more modest goals for ourselves in this area for the time being. Any comprehensive review of these printouts with a view to making substantive judgments of this magnitude will require considerable effort by us and the assistance of some non-legal specialists. Jay and I think this work could be postponed until after the next round of negotiations.
- (c) You will be interested to know that the Ambassador apparently reviewed the minutes of the first meeting of our working group and saw that an item was included on the agenda dealing with the formal or automatic review of the proposed Status Agreement. Due to the Ambassador's insistence, Mr. Chapman has requested that this item be excluded from the agenda of the committee's work because no tentative agreement in this area had been achieved during our last session of negotiations. I restated our position on this subject and said that we would undertake the burden at some appropriate time of coming forward with a specific proposal on this subject.

- (3) As I believe I have mentioned from time to time, we are preparing a background memorandum which might be used in connection with future contacts with Members of Congress or with foundations. Enclosed is a recent draft of the memorandum. If you have any comments or suggestions as to how this memorandum might be improved, please let me know. We would be representing it as our own work product rather than as an official statement which had received clearance from the Commission, but obviously we want to make certain that it accurately reflects the client's viewpoint.
- (4) For your information, I shall be making a contact with the Ford Foundation during the next two or three weeks. The groundwork for this approach has been laid by a close friend who formerly was employed at the Foundation. They are interested in learning more about the Marianas Political Status Commission and the negotiations and I think that such an approach would be useful, even if it proves to be unsuccessful. I have discussed the general subject with Jim Leonard and his colleagues and they have been very helpful in shaping the way in which our financial needs might be presented most persuasively to the Foundation. I will report again on this subject as soon as I have had the initial meeting.

Best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

Enclosure

cc: Mr. White

bc: Mr. Lapin
Mr. Carter
Mr. Leonard

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