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October 30, 1973

Mr. Eamon Kelly
Ford Foundation
320 East 43rd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Kelly:

I look forward to meeting you next Monday for lunch to discuss, informally, my current efforts on behalf of the Marianas Political Status Commission. As I promised (or threatened), I have collected some materials which, hopefully, will serve to give you some idea of the negotiations currently underway between the Mariana Islands and the United States and the kinds of problems facing the Marianas in the years ahead. The enclosed materials can be described as follows:

- (1) A Background Memorandum on the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. This memorandum summarizes where we presently stand in the negotiations, the next round of which has been tentatively scheduled in Saipan on December 6, 1973. Sessions with the Joint Committee, representing all six districts of Micronesia, are scheduled to begin in Washington on November 10, 1973.
- (2) The Proposed Planning Program for the Development of the Mariana Islands prepared by James R. Leonard Associates, Inc. This document has been prepared by the Commission's economic consultants, who may be familiar to you because of some of the planning work which they undertook in connection with the Alaskan native claims area in which the Foundation was involved. (Mr. Leonard used to be with Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc.) This planning effort has been the subject of extensive discussion with representatives of the United States delegation in Washington and will, presumably, be on the

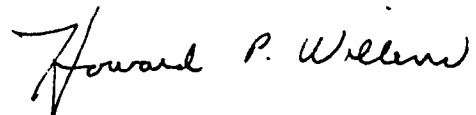
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agenda for the formal negotiations in December. I am including it in this package to give you some idea of the scope of economic and social planning which is believed desirable for the proposed new Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands.

- (3) Proposed Government Planning Program prepared by Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering. This aspect of the overall planning program was prepared in this office and, undoubtedly, reflects our lack of expertise in dealing with such matters. It also will be the subject of discussion with representatives of the United States delegation in the near future. I am including it in this packet of materials because it will give you a fairly precise idea of the specific undertakings which are necessary to take the Marianas from their present status to a new commonwealth status.
- (4) Assorted materials relating to the financial support of the Marianas Political Status Commission. The letter dated August 6, 1973, from Chairman Pangelinan to the Mariana Islands Legislature sets forth the Commission's estimated budget requirements up to February, 1974, and the newspaper articles from the Pacific Daily News indicate that the Commission received an appropriation of \$95,000 of the \$165,000 requested.
- (5) Two newspaper articles referring to economic and social conditions in Guam. Although the above materials probably are sufficient to outline the needs that currently exist in the Marianas, these two articles are both shorter and more graphic. Basically, the Commission and the people in the Marianas are very apprehensive about adopting a course of action similar to that pursued by Guam over the past several years. How to stimulate economic development, including a substantial tourist industry, and at the same time avoid the excesses so apparent in Guam, is one of the major questions with which the Marianas will be required to cope during the next decade.

I promise that I will not interrogate you rigorously about these materials and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

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