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June 10, 1974

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Senator Edward DLG Pangelinan
 Chairman
 Marianas Political Status Commission
 P.O. Box 977
 Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Ed:

I hope by now that you have recovered from the last session of negotiations and are still pleased with what we managed to accomplish. I think that the members of the Commission acted with great courage and wisdom and that you, as their Chairman, deserve great credit for the leadership which you provided. On a more personal basis, I hope that Dulcie is well and that I shall shortly hear from you regarding the addition of another healthy Pangelinan child.

As promised, I will attempt in this letter to describe generally the projects which will be occupying our attention on the Commission's behalf during this recess before the next session of negotiations.

1. United Nations: For the Commission's records, I am enclosing a copy of the statement which Joe and Danny gave before the United Nations on June 6. Based upon Mike's report, the statement was well received, both by the U.S. Delegation and the Trusteeship Council, and there was only a single question addressed to the Commission's representatives. Joe and Danny survived the trip from Saipan reasonably well, worked hard with us in Washington before going to New York, and represented the Commission with great distinction. As to what they did after their U.N. appearance, I cannot speak from even secondhand knowledge, but I must admit that there was some talk of a stop in Las Vegas on

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the way home.

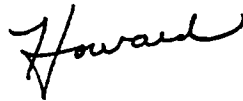
2. Status Report: As you requested, we will prepare an up-dated status report for use with the Marianas District Legislature and other persons interested in our negotiations. We will try to send you this report, together with our thoughts regarding a cover letter to the District Legislature within the next few weeks. I think it is getting to be time for you to be very outspoken and bullish with respect to our negotiations and the benefits which the Commission expects to realize from the proposed new status as a Commonwealth.
3. Public Land Corporation: In anticipation of acceptable legislation being enacted by the Congress of Micronesia at its July special session, we are turning again to our work in connection with the Public Land Corporation. Unfortunately, we did not get the opportunity to review this matter with you and the other members of the Commission during the last session. We do need guidance from the Commission on some policy questions related to the corporation. What we will probably do is prepare draft articles and other materials for your review and try to get some initial reaction from you and Jim White before we submit the papers to the other members of the Commission. It is particularly important that the two of you, as lawyers and general counsels-designate to the corporation, give us your best judgment on these questions as soon as possible. We will be writing you a separate letter on this subject once our work is ready for your review.
4. Separate Administration: We will take responsibility for considering further the question of separate administration for the Marianas. I will touch base with Jim Berg either this week or next on this matter and try to get the benefit of whatever research has been done by the Department of the Interior on this subject. I will let you know at that point what appear to be the most important questions for additional research and will try to explore some of the significant questions during the next several weeks.

5. Status Agreement: Assuming that the U.S. Delegation really wants to make progress, this could occupy a very substantial portion of my time during the next few months. I understand that Jim Wilson will be preoccupied with the United Nations until sometime this week, but it is possible that he and I may talk as early as next week regarding our collective assignment as the Joint Drafting Committee. As soon as I have had my first discussion with Mr. Wilson on this subject, I will report to you and give you my judgment as to his attitude and the prospects for successful negotiations on this subject during the recess.
6. Joint Land Committee: I will be working with Jim Leonard to provide necessary support for this committee. We spent several hours on Friday with a very qualified candidate to assist the Commission in ascertaining the fair market value of the land to be made available to the United States for military purposes. As I discussed with Jim White, I hope that he will be assuming the primary staff role in connection with this committee and I look forward to hearing from one of you regarding your plans in this connection.
7. Miscellaneous Research Assignments: As always, there are numerous research projects which should be addressed by us. I do not anticipate that we will need the same amount of manpower on this project during the next several months, but there still is a good amount of work to be done in the various areas to be covered in the formal Status Agreement. We will be taking a look at some questions related to military retention lands, land valuation, control of ports, land alienation, lease agreements, and various constitutional questions which must be considered in connection with our Status Agreement.
8. Preparation for District Legislature Session: There are several matters related to the Commission which might be presented to the District Legislature at its August session. I am thinking of such matters as reporting to the District Legislature on our negotiations, outlining the Commission's views regarding its continued existence after the Status Agreement is signed, making arrangements for the financing of the Commission, reporting on the question of separate administration, and placing before the Legislature for action the Commission's recommendations regarding the creation of a Public Land Corporation. I

would like you to give some preliminary thought to whether I should make plans to come to Saipan for the District Legislature session and a meeting with the Commission. Assuming that we make some progress in negotiating the Status Agreement within the next six weeks, it is very likely also that I will need to place certain matters before the Commission for a decision on this subject. In other words, it may be necessary to meet with the Commission for approximately a week or 10 days before the District Legislature has its session. Let me know your thinking on this possibility.

Best personal regards,

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

Enclosure

cc: Mr. James E. White