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Michael S. Helfer, Esq.  
c/o Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, Esqs.  
1666 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

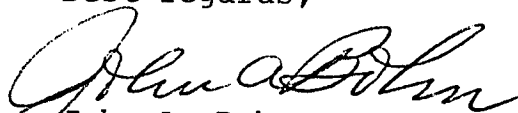
Dear Mr. Helfer:

Thank you for your letter of July 5, 1974 and enclosures regarding the proposed new Marianas Commonwealth.

I note with particular interest the budget appearing on page 11 and my main question is whether it is intended that comprehensive tentative codes are to be prepared as part of the "transition." If so, I don't think enough money has been allotted in the area of "Government Organization." It may be, of course, that it is not intended that any of this code work be done prior to the election of a new government, and if this is so, the problem will not be as acute. However, some sort of skeleton statutes will have to be available so that the new government can function. Perhaps all of this is intended to be covered in the general budget of the secretariat or in one of the other headings. However, it is a major job which should be specially considered.

I assume that the secretariat is going to have the benefit of counsel, which will certainly be an absolute essential. My experience has been that there is a great deal of "social" and "economic" planning in these matters which, no doubt, serves a fine purpose but will turn out to be wholly unworkable unless some good, solid legal work translates the plan into some sort of statutes to carry out the programs agreed upon. In any event, as I indicated before, this whole procedure is very interesting to me and I would like to participate in any way in which I can be of help.

Best regards,



John A. Bohn

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