

d

26 September 1974

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

Dear Ed:

Thank you for your letter of September 12, 1974, and the enclosed payment of \$10,000. I understand the circumstances arising from the Joint Land Committee's meetings in Washington and I certainly support the decision to use the Commission's limited funds to support this trip.

I will be sending you shortly another statement for services rendered by this firm through the end of August. It would be very helpful to me if this statement could be substantially honored in advance of the next session of negotiations from the money recently made available by the District Legislature.

I too am pleased by the enactment of the resolution on the subject of separate administration. I am very disappointed, however, in the action of the Legislature on the subject of the return of the public lands. I regard this as a serious setback to the concept of self-government in the Marianas and I am concerned that it may very well raise serious problems for you in the future. We are reviewing the matter carefully and will prepare a report for you and the members of the Commission in the near future. I hope that the members of the Legislature will be amenable to further consideration of this difficult subject.

The sessions with the Joint Land Committee are progressing fairly well. I am sure you will get a complete report from the members when they return next week. You will be interested in the attached sheet providing our consultant's preliminary estimates of the value of the land to be made available to the United States under the Status Agreement. I believe that the Committee was very impressed with the effort made by Dr. Seldin and his colleagues on our behalf. Dr. Seldin made a very impressive presentation and the subject is going to be considered again tomorrow. Needless to say, the initial United States reaction was polite but negative.

The general atmosphere surrounding the Committee meetings is very good and both Ambassador Williams and Mr. Wilson have been very courteous and hospitable in dealing with the members of the Commission. It is a pleasure having them in town and I wish you were with them.

Let me know of any further discussions you have with the Ambassador and particularly your current thinking regarding the date in November when the next session will begin.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

Enclosure