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January 19, 1974

Senator Edward DLG Fangelinan
Marianas Political Status Commission
P.O. Box 977
Marianas Island, Saipan 96950

Dear Ed:

We met yesterday with Jim Wilson and several members of his staff to discuss the current status of matters and our schedule during the next several weeks. Enclosed is a copy of our memorandum summarizing the meeting as well as a copy of my letter to Jim White. I would just like to highlight a few points.

1. I told Mr. Wilson and his colleagues that the Commission had designated Jim Leonard and myself to be its representatives on the ad hoc committee. Mr. Wilson and his group seemed to accept this information without any difficulty and indicated that there representatives will be Messrs. Scott, Silver and Loftis. Jim Wilson said that you and the Ambassador, when you meet on or about January 29, may wish to make announcements to this effect. I do not care about any announcements, of course, but I wanted you to know that I have officially communicated the fact of our representation to the United States delegation.

2. We agreed yesterday that the subject of financing for the ad hoc committee would undoubtedly be discussed by you and the Ambassador. Jim Wilson indicated that some justification for the \$45,000 will be required. Obviously Jim Leonard and I will

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provide whatever justification you desire and we will leave the matter entirely in your hands. I told Mr. Wilson that Jim and I intended to participate in the ad hoc committee on behalf of the Commission whether or not funds were available from the United States.

3. The meeting was very cordial and useful. Of particular importance is the fact that we have a tentative timetable for preliminary discussions within the ad hoc committee to begin later this month. As you can expect, Sol Silver's illness and resulting temporary incapacity has created great consternation within the U.S. delegation. I think it is also important that the U.S. delegation is currently working on terms of reference for technical discussions in the military requirements area, as we have repeatedly urged for several months.

As the enclosed report indicates, you are going to be overwhelmed by visits from members of the U.S. delegation during the next few weeks. I would like to be kept informed regarding these discussions, although I recognize that your time is going to be at a premium during the session of the Congress of Micronesia.

On a personal note, I am sad to report that Jay Lapin will be leaving the firm effective Friday, January 25, to take a position as associate general counsel with the new federal energy office. This opportunity developed within the past two weeks and Jay leaves, of course, with my and the firm's encouragement and best wishes. This is an extraordinary opportunity for a young lawyer, involving as it does a super grade position in charge of litigation and enforcement activities of the new agency with supervision of 8-10 lawyers. Needless to say, I hope very much that Jay will return to the firm after a year or two of public service.

Best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Howard F. Willens

Enclosure
cc: v/encl. James E. White

bcc: James Leonard

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