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January 19, 1974

James E. White  
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Dear Jim:

Thank you for your letter dated January 9 reporting in detail regarding the Commission's meeting with Congressman Burton and others in Saipan. This was an extremely helpful report and we are planning to take the following steps:

1. I will call Adrian Winkel promptly and try to arrange a meeting with him in order to get his impressions regarding the Saipan meeting and his recommendations as to how we should proceed in the future with respect to Congressman Burton and his colleagues;
2. Assuming that Mr. Winkel believes it is a good idea, we will prepare short "unofficial" discussion papers explaining the tax provisions in the recent joint communique with which Congressman Burton had some slight difficulty during your meeting. (Incidentally, it appears as though you did a splendid job in defending the tentative agreements reached to date that came up during your meeting.)
3. We will take a look at the precedents regarding the admission of states into the United States, along the lines suggested in your letter. We have

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done some previous research in these areas and found little of value, but we will look for any specific exceptions which might be useful in our subsequent presentation to the United States delegation or to Congress.

4. As soon as we have a current status report regarding our negotiations, now under preparation, we will plan to circularize it generally to the members of the responsible committees in Congress and try to follow up with meetings and further explanation where that seems appropriate.

Let me know if you or the Chairman have any additional suggestions to make on our work in this area.

Although I must admit I was somewhat discouraged by the report of Congressman Burton's questions regarding the tax provisions, on the whole we are pleased with his general attitude as reported in your letter. In particular, I think that his comment on the financial side and the leasing of military land offers considerable support for the negotiating positions which we have taken and plan to take during the next session.

I have some specific questions for you:

1. When the nonvoting representative was discussed, did any of the members of Congress, and specifically Won Pat, express any views regarding the inclusion of the Marianas in the area represented by Won Pat? Do you believe he was serious in suggesting that a delegate who represented both Guam and the Northern Marianas might be able to obtain the vote?

2. Was there any discussion with Congressman Burton of my previous efforts to see him and any reaction or guidance from him as to how an appropriate "indirect set up with his office" might be created?

We had a meeting yesterday with Jim Wilson and some members of his staff regarding our future schedule of meetings here in Washington. As you may have heard, the situation is complicated by Sol Silver's illness which has confined him to his home for approximately one month. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to the Chairman reporting on this meeting.

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We are currently reviewing the draft public land legislation and are in contact with the Department of the Interior on this subject. Please keep us informed.

Best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

Enclosure

cc: Senator Edward DLG Pangelinan

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