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November 4, 1974

Mr. Howard P. Willens
WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING
1666 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Howard:

Ed just returned from the meeting with the Ambassador and all appears in good shape. The one item the Ambassador seems to be waiting for with "baited breathe" is our counter offer in reference to the land itself. I mentioned to Ed that we had promised this, but it would be some time prior to the next round of negotiations. Just how much in advance of it we never did commit.

Marianas Five is apparently to begin on December 2, 1974 here on Saipan. Eddy is very enthused that the schedule previously indicated of an agreement before the end of the year, passage by the District Legislature in its next session, and a Plebiscite by June will be maintained.

The election campaign has been a rough one. Pete has been playing rather dirty; will fill you in on the details when you arrive.

So far we have not gone further with the report of the Land Committee. Pete and Joe apparently met on this subject and decided that our version--not the U. S. version--the last one that Mike and I worked out with the U. S. was appropriate and that we would go ahead with that one. Pete indicated that he was going to

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send a letter to the Ambassador to that effect. I said maybe it would be better to send it to Jim Wilson and asked if he wanted me to take care of it. He said he would take care of it. I don't know what has occurred since then. This was over a week ago.

Howard, Joan and I thoroughly enjoyed being in Washington and having an opportunity to visit yours, Jim Leonard's and Mike Helfer's homes. It somehow makes everything a little more meaningful.

Sincerely yours,



James E. White
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