

Phone : 3206

JAMES E. WHITE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P. O. BOX 47, Capitol Hill
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

November 15, 1974

Mr. Howard P. Willens
Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering
1666 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Howard:

I have kept the attached letter relatively clean in case you wanted to show it to the opposition. The group looks quite solid for this session, and they are definitely ready to bargain. I suspect we will have some first class resistance, but maybe we can get over the hurdles at the in-house session prior to December 2.

Dave Schiele, the deputy status LNO here, is going to Washington on Saturday or Sunday--apparently to fill Williams in as to what position to take in reference to Palacios' request. I gave him the usual earful in hopes that half of it would sink in. One of the concerns that Schiele had, and one which was brought up by Herman Q. and Mitch, was that research might best be done to insure a way that the plebiscite vote not include people from other districts. I indicated to both Herman and Mitch that no doubt you had already worked on this, and my offhand suggestion was that probably this was best included in the status agreement itself; i.e., the procedural aspects of the plebiscite including what class or classes of individuals would be eligible to vote. If this procedure is not appropriate, does the district legislature have the authority to establish this criteria in view of the preemption doctrine where the election field has been entered into by the Congress of Micronesia.

One other concern that might be worthwhile checking out prior to your coming here is an update on the U. S.


3/E
01
12100

Mr. Howard P. Willens
November 15, 1974
Page 2

intentions as to when they anticipate construction to begin on Tinian. Apparently, the number two man in the Defense Department, Clement, was on a trip through Guam and the Trust Territory, and he had some discussions with some of the leaders of the business and governmental community on Guam. His indication allegedly to them was that there would be no construction on Tinian for at least five (5) years; and the base, when and if built, would be relatively insignificant. His statement was that maybe once in a while they would land a B-52 there, but otherwise very little use would be made of that base location. I suspect that this was a pacifying of the obvious interest of the Guamanians as to whether or not their SAC base was going to be moved to Tinian. It may not have any real validity, but it was stressed to me that this guy was one of the few leaders to be held over by Ford; consequently, this may be a new policy.

If you let me know a little ahead of time about when you'll be arriving I'll meet you at the airport and arrange hotel accommodations.

Sincerely yours,


James E. White
Attorney at Law

P.S. Give my Christmas best to your family. You might consider wishing them the same before you leave for this session.

12101