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Mr. Howard P. Willens  
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Dear Howard:

The election has been pretty well completed, and as you undoubtedly already know, Herman Q. Guerrero and Eddy lost their seats in the Congress; and Jose Mafnas, Oscar Rasa and Pete A. Tenorio have gained seats. Herman R. Guerrero from the Popular Party edged out Pete P. Tenorio by four (4) votes.

Now there is an attempt by Dr. Palacios, and possibly one or two others, of the Territorial group to slow down the negotiations and to pressure the Ambassador into postponing the December session. However, eleven (11) members of the Commission have been contacted in reference to this situation and they all indicate that they want to have the session in December, and they are desirous of moving ahead as planned. The only members we have been unable to contact in this regard are Pete A. Tenorio, Felix Rabauliman and Felipe Salas. Felipe Salas has just been appointed a judgeship. As a result, he will probably no longer be a member of the district legislature or the Status Commission. Therefore, the procedure for appointments to these positions is being reviewed. It is anticipated that the person chosen will be desirous of the December meeting, so in effect the maximum number adverse to moving ahead appears to be limited at most to three (3); and possibly just Dr. Palacios.

Ben Manglona and Johannes Taimanao, both members of the Territorial Party, construe the election and the status as separate situations. Although they supported Territorial candidates, they are very desirous of seeing

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the status talks go forward as scheduled.

The major problem with regard to the election was the votes cast by Micronesians from the other districts-- the unofficial tally at this point is 535. By the time you arrive here, we will probably have a better breakdown of just where they came from and when they registered. Almost all of them were registered in the First and Third Representative Districts consequently giving the edge to Mafnas and Rasa, and obviously in the process put Tenorio in the Senatorial seat.

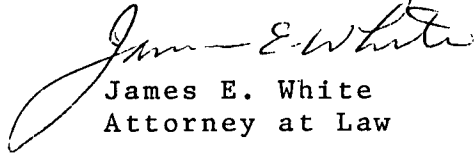
The Popular Party has decided to contest the election results. They have made an initial complaint to the Election Commissioner to prosecute any individual involved in criminal irregularities, and they are also possibly petitioning the Election Commissioner for a re-count. It is anticipated that they will also make a rather lengthy presentation to the Congress of Micronesia at the opening session in an attempt to get the seats declared vacant and to have a special election called. The success of this will depend mainly on how many of the 535 votes cast here also had corresponding absentee ballots filed in their home districts. The Popular Party members on the Status Commission intend to stress at the opening session of the in-house meeting of the status talks that the issue of status and the issue of the election protest are unrelated. The position of the Popular Party members is that they support the protest, but as soon as they walk into the status negotiations they will put their partisan hats aside and move towards a unified development for the Marianas.

We understand that the Ambassador is somewhat hesitant as to what procedures to take at this time. He is concerned that, if the status talks are not put to bed during this session, the composition of the Status Commission may be substantially changed, and if we were to push ahead at this time and not wrap it up, this could create undue antagonism in future sessions. It must be stressed to Ambassador Williams that this is not the case, but in actuality just the opposite

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is true. The Popular Party has received a severe blow mainly due to the outside vote. Any movement to delay the December session would be viewed as another defeat which would create an extremely tense situation here in the Marianas and could result in the loss of support of the Popular Party members.

Sincerely yours,

  
James E. White  
Attorney at Law