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December 19, 1974

Mr. Howard P. Willens
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Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Howard:

This quick response is to let you know the recent development at this morning's in-house meeting with our Commission. Both sides; i.e., Territorial and Popular, got into a round robin discussion of the political problems involved with the possible reorganization. The end result was the following: The desire is to see the Commission remain as it is as to its present membership. The new member to replace Felipe Salas will be from the Territorial Party. The co-chairman idea is accepted; however, it has not been specifically determined who the co-chairman from the Territorial Party will be. There is going to be a quiet push for Dr. Palacios rather than Pete Tenorio because Dr. Palacios has a larger following, is one of the founding fathers of the Territorial Party and has a greater following in the Carolinian community. Nothing on the push for Dr. Palacios will be attempted until after the shifting has taken place and the Commission meets to vote on the new co-chairman. The way the slots will line up are as follows:

Alternative No. 1: Oley and Pete come in under the Congress of Micronesia, Eddy comes in under Northern Islands, Larry Guerrero comes in under Chamber of Commerce and Herman Q. Guerrero comes in under District Legislature.

Alternative No. 2: Oley and either Mafnas or Rasa come in under Joint Committee, Pete Tenorio stays in under Chamber of Commerce, Eddy comes in under Northern Islands and Herman Q. Guerrero comes in under District Legislature.

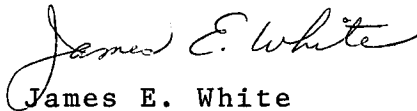
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Mr. Howard P. Willens
December 19, 1974
Page 2

The reasons for the alternatives are the Popular Party agrees that its representative on the Joint Committee will be Oley. The Territorial Party; i.e., Dr. Palacios and Pete Tenorio, could not assure that Pete would be unopposed for membership on the Joint Committee. Either Rasa or Mafnas might make separate attempts to get on. The Territorial Party, as a whole, accepts the idea of one from each party on the Joint Committee. Obviously, we are hoping Pete will be the elected one from the Territorial Party. Regardless of how the alternatives fly, it appears we are going to have a slight problem with the new membership. I hope it is Larry--of the three, he will probably be the most amenable.

I thought you would enjoy this good news before you leave on your cruise. Please give my best to your folks and tell them next year's cruise should be to Saipan.

Sincerely yours,


James E. White

cc: Michael S. Helfer
James R. Leonard

12713