

01  
6

February 26, 1974

Dr. William J. Brisk  
LASPAU  
25 Mt. Auburn Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Bill:

It was a pleasure talking to you today about my Marianas problems. If you can find any time at all for us during the midst of your other commitments, I would be very grateful indeed.

I am enclosing the following background materials:  
(1) Background Memorandum prepared last year after the second session of negotiations which includes some information about the Marianas and Micronesia generally; (2) a current Status Report summarizing the negotiations in light of the third session which concluded last December; (3) the Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Committee which is currently considering the substance and costs of a government planning program for the Marianas; and (4) two working lists identifying some of the projects which might be included under the general headings of government reorganization and legislative drafting.

61 - 07853

As the above materials indicate, I am currently in the process of trying to work out with representatives of the U.S. Delegation, if possible, the dimensions of a government planning program to be funded by the United States. Recognizing our limitations as lawyers, I am soliciting the advice of knowledgeable persons in the areas of public administration, political science, legislative drafting, planning and related subjects in the hope they will assist me in presenting a proposition on behalf of my client which the United States cannot afford (gracefully that is) to reject. I am in the preliminary stages of discussion with the Institute of Public Administration and the Public Administration Service in this connection.

Specifically, I am looking for help in addressing three general topics - Constitutional Convention, government reorganization and legislative drafting. The two enclosed worksheets give you some idea of what I have in mind regarding the last two of these topics. Using these as starting points, I would like some assistance in addressing questions along these lines:

1. What projects should be included in the overall planning effort that are not specified on these lists?
2. What projects included on the list need not be addressed as part of a planning effort or deserve a lesser priority?
3. What are the relative priorities involved among the jobs which have to be done?
4. What kinds of people are needed for what lengths of time to do the necessary work in connection with these subjects?
5. What costs would be entailed to execute a minimum but respectable planning effort during a transitional period lasting approximately two years between the signing of a formal Status Agreement and the coming into being of the new Marianas Commonwealth?
6. How should such a government planning effort be organized so as to insure maximum input by the people of the Marianas and some reasonable assurances that the recommendations will, on the whole, be useful?

07/21

Any general comments you have would be most welcome. As I mentioned over the phone, it is unlikely that the transitional program will get underway until next year at the earliest, given the United States reluctance to go to Congress for the necessary funding until a Formal Status Agreement has been signed by my client. In other words, I am sure that there will be ample opportunity for you to make additional contributions on this subject if your interest and commitments later this year permit.

I am also enclosing a copy of a draft chapter of a report currently being prepared by a group at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. As I indicated, this group takes a very negative view of the separate U.S. - Marianas negotiations because of its alleged splintering effect in Micronesia. I will definitely be required to file a dissenting opinion to any report which takes this position and I would appreciate any thoughts you would have.

I hope that you can drop in the next time you are in Washington.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

Enclosures

P.S. Our house is still available to you - even if it is somewhat colder now than it was during your last visit.

0725