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February 27, 1974

John A. Bohn, Esq.
Claremont Hotel Building
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Bohn:

Thank you again for taking the time to discuss with Nancy Schuh and me the problems of planning for the initial session of the legislative body of the future Marianas Commonwealth.

Enclosed is a package of background material on the negotiations generally, and on the issues we discussed on the phone in particular. Some additional information will help put these materials in perspective.

After the status agreement negotiations are completed, there will have to be a period of time -- one to two years, perhaps -- before a new Commonwealth Government comes into effect. During this period of time, which we usually call transition, the agreement will be presented to the Marianas District Legislature, to the people and the Marianas and to the U. S. Congress for approval. During this period as well, a constitutional convention will be held to frame a new constitution for the Commonwealth; the constitution will also be presented to the people of the Marianas for approval. In addition, a good deal of economic and political planning for the new Commonwealth will take place during the transition period.

The United States has agreed in principle to finance the necessary planning work during transition. But the two sides have not yet agreed on the precise scope of the necessary planning, nor on its cost. At the last round of negotiations an Ad Hoc Committee was established to explore the transition planning issues. Mr. Howard Willens of this firm is one of two representatives of the Commission on the Ad Hoc Committee.

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February 27, 1974

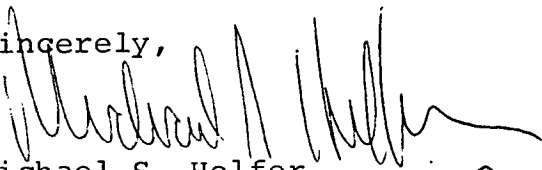
One of the transition planning issues which the Ad Hoc Committee will deal with concerns government planning. For analytical purposes we have tentatively viewed government planning as having three major components, though all are closely related: planning for and holding a constitutional convention, and a plebiscite on the proposed constitution; planning for the organization of the new Commonwealth government (legislative, executive and judicial branches); and planning for the initial legislative program in the legislative body of the Commonwealth. Among the enclosed material you will find two sheets dated February 20, 1974, which briefly describe the sorts of tasks which we believe are included in the government organization and initial legislative program planning work.

It would be most helpful for us if you could review the enclosed material and then give us your judgment as to (1) the specific tasks which must be completed to do an adequate job of preparing for the first session of the legislative body of the future Commonwealth; (2) the manpower requirements and the costs of completing these tasks; and (3) from your experience, the difficulties which can be expected if careful advance planning for the first legislative session is not done. Please do not feel at all bound by the sheets which describe the government organization and initial legislative program tasks. For example, some of the tasks on the government organization sheet are tasks which you may feel are properly part of the planning for the initial legislative program -- e.g., Sections A(1) and (5) of that sheet. If you have any views on the other aspects of the government organization tasks, these too would be most welcome, of course.

Both sides of the negotiations anticipate that the government planning portions of the transition planning will be carried out under the direction of appropriate representatives of the Marianas. Accordingly, it is not possible for us now to tell you how the persons or organization which will actually do any aspect of the government planning work will be selected. In addition, you should know that we have contacted a limited number of other persons or organizations to seek their views on the scope of, and costs of, the components of the governmental planning work. We expect to receive these views within the next three to six weeks, and to move as expeditiously as possible within the Ad Hoc Committee on this issue after that.

We very much appreciate your interest in this project, and we look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or would like any more material, please call me collect at the number above.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Helfer

cc: Mr. Willens

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