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Mr. Randolph L. Marshall  
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Dear Mr. Marshall:

On behalf of the Marianas Political Status Commission I would like to thank you and Dr. Fitch for taking the time to meet with us on the subject of a proposed government planning program for the Marianas during the transitional period between the signing of a formal Status Agreement and the time at which the new Commonwealth government comes into effect. I hope that it will be possible for the Institute of Public Administration to be of assistance in this connection.

As we have discussed, the Marianas Political Status Commission represents the people of the Mariana Islands in negotiations with the United States looking toward political union between the Marianas and the United States. 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 of 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 the transition period, and representatives of the two delegations are currently working in an Ad Hoc Committee to try and define the substance, scope and costs of the planning effort. The United States Delegation has made it clear that any funding for such planning purposes will be closely scrutinized within the Executive Branch and in Congress and has emphasized, therefore, that any planning proposals should be confined to those minimum but necessary undertakings which are required to enable the new Marianas Commonwealth to begin functioning successfully. The Commission appreciates the concerns which have been expressed by the United States in this regard. The Commission's only interest is in securing funding for a limited but coherent planning effort which will enable certain indispensable tasks to be completed in a timely fashion before the new Marianas government begins to exercise its responsibilities. Under the circumstances, I do not believe it is appropriate to reveal the varying estimates which have been advanced during the negotiations regarding the cost of an appropriate planning effort.

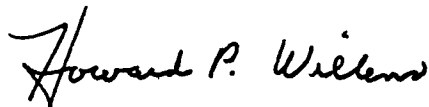
The specific planning program concerning which we would like the assistance of the Institute relates to government planning. For analytical purposes, we have tentatively viewed government planning as having three major components: planning for and holding a constitutional convention and a plebiscite 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. I believe that you have been supplied with two working lists prepared in this office, dated February 20, 1974, which briefly describe the sorts of tasks which we believe are included in the government organization and the initial legislative program planning work.

Specifically, we would like the Institute to prepare a proposal outlining the substance and estimated costs of an appropriate government planning effort in the Marianas. We hope that such a proposal would draw heavily upon previous studies done by the Institute and make an effort to justify both the need for and estimated cost of specific planning efforts in light of the Institute's previous experience. We expect that the proposal would identify the specific planning tasks which need to be done, assign some relative priority to these jobs, identify the kinds of experts who would be needed and estimate the costs involved. For purposes of preparing such a proposal, I believe it should be assumed that the transitional planning effort will last approximately two years.

As we discussed during our meetings, neither my client nor I am in any position to make commitments or representations regarding the selection of the persons or organization which will actually do any government planning work undertaken by the Marianas. At this point in our negotiations, we are interested in availing ourselves of the expertise of a selected number of organizations and persons whose prior experience suggests that they may be able to advise us and the United States Delegation regarding the scope and costs of an appropriate government planning effort. If funds are eventually secured for such a program, the selection of the group to undertake the work will be the responsibility of appropriate representatives of the Marianas.

If the Institute is able to be of assistance along these lines, it would be very helpful if we could have some preliminary proposal from you before April 1, 1974. We are available to be of assistance to you in any way possible. If you believe it would be useful, we will be glad to arrange a meeting with representatives of the U.S. Delegation so that you can gain a fuller understanding of their views on the subject of transitional planning. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens