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March 18, 1974

Mr. Edward Towle,
Island Resources Foundation
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801

Dear Mr. Towle:

Your name came up recently in a conversation I had with William Brisk, who mentioned that you might be familiar with certain problems we are looking into for our client, the Marianas Political Status Commission. The Mariana Islands, which form part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, will soon undergo a change in political status pending termination of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement under which the United States presently administers the Trust Territory.

In order to provide an insight into the task at hand, I am enclosing the following background materials: (1) A current Status Report summarizing the negotiations in light of the third session of negotiations which concluded last December; (2) 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 (3) two working lists identifying some of the projects which might included under the general headings of government reorganization and legislative drafting.

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

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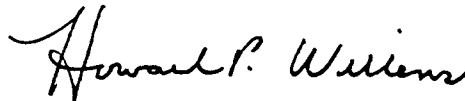
of my client which the United States will accept. I am having discussions with the Institute of Public Administration and the Public Administration Service in this connection.

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?

I do not know whether or not your experience has touched on such questions. However, if you have any thoughts on this project, I would appreciate hearing from you. I would like to know generally what your Foundation does and how it might be of assistance to the Marianas.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Helfer
Ms. Schuh

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