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March 25, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO GIL ROTHENBERG

Here is a list of the Marianas research projects which still need to be completed. In view of the nature of the previous projects which you have been assigned, I am giving you your choice on which to work on next. The projects are as follows:

1. Would it be constitutional to add a provision to the status agreement (similar to the provision in the Guam Organic Act) providing that people of the Marianas should receive preference in employment for the commonwealth government? (See me for the Alaska precedent.)
2. Section 903(a) of our draft of the status agreement provides for a commission to make a survey of federal statutory laws and to recommend which of those laws should be made applicable to the commonwealth. Would it be too great a delegation of legislative authority if we drafted this section so that the recommendations of the joint committee of the commission would come into effect unless Congress disapproved its findings? (See me about a related memorandum.)
3. Section 904 of our draft provides for a resident commissioner to the United States and, eventually, for a representative. How do the provisions of the present draft compare with the provisions relating to non-voting delegates from Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the District of Columbia, and

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American Samoa? For example, how are those other delegates chosen; what are their powers and duties; how are they financed; what is the length of their terms; and how are the positions filled in case of vacancies? In connection with this question, we would be interested in knowing what the population of the Virgin Islands and Guam was when they received their non-voting delegates.

4. At the present time, what is the power of the states to tax federal property?

Noël Kramer