

RICHARD H. WILMER LLOYD N. CUTLER JOHN H. PICKERING MANUEL F. COHEN HUGH R. H. SMITH

LOUIS F. OBERDORFFR

LOUIS F. OBERDORFER J. ROGEN WOLLENBERG CHARLES C. GLOVER, III MARSHALL HORNBLOWER HENRY T. RATHBUN REUBEN CLARK SAMUEL J. LANAHAN WILLIAM R. PERLIK SAMUEL A. STERN ARNOLD M. LERMAN ROBERT P. STRANAHAN, JR. MAX O. TRUITI, JR. JOEL ROSENBLOOM

JOEL ROSENBLOOM HOWARD P. WILLENS

## WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING 1666 K STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C.20006

CABLE ADDRESS: WICRING WASH., D.C. INTERNATIONAL TELEX: 440-239 TELEX: 89-2402 TELEPHONE 202-872-6000

EUROPEAN OFFICE

5, CHEAPSIDE LONDON, EC2V 6AA, ENGLAND TELEPHONE 01-236-2401 TELEX:851 883242 CABLE ADDRESS: WICRING, LONDON

May 7, 1975

RICHARD A. ALLEN PETER D. BEWLEY STEPHEN F. BLACK MICHAEL L. BURACK RICHARD W. CASS BARRY O. CHASE MICHELE B. CORASH WILLIAM A. DIETCH JAMES R. FARRAND NEAL M. GOLDBERG CORNELIUS J. GOLDEN, JR. C. BOYDEN GRAY FRANCES M. GREEN RONALD J. GREENE ROBERT C. HACKER DAVID G. HANES ALLEN H. HARNSON, JR. JOHN H. HARWOOD II MICHAEL S. HELFER CHARLES E. HILL A.STEPHEN HUT, JR. LORING JETTON, JR. DAVID R. JOHNSON

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Edward DLG Pangelinan, Esq. P. O. Box 47 Capitol Hill Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Ed:

Enclosed is a memorandum concerning the meeting which Eleanor O'Hara and I had with Emmett Rice and others at the Department of Interior on Monday. This was the meeting I referred to in my cable. I think that the memo is self-explanatory.

Obviously you and others are devoting your time to the plebiscite, but if there is any way to get the corporation organized and to begin discussions leading to the return of public land prior to the plebiscite, it would be very desirable from our point of view.

As you have no doubt determined, the rather cryptic portion of my cable which related to voter registration was based on my fear that the opponents of the Covenant will attempt to overload the system by registering large numbers of people at the very last moment, thereby making it difficult for you and others to challenge the qualifications of these registrants. Only by getting our people registered early is it possible to avoid this kind of overload and to have sufficient resources available to challenge those who are not qualified to vote.

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ANDREW T.A. MACDONALD ROBERT A. HAMMOND, III DANIEL K. MATERS TIMOTHY B. DYK DAVID R. ANDERSON J. RODERICK HELLER, III ARTHUR F. MATHEWS JAMES S. CAMPBELL DENNIS M. FLANNERY DANIEL MARCUS JAMES ROBERTSON RAYMOND C. CLEVENGER, III LOUIS R. COHEM LOUIS R. COHEN MICHAEL R. KLEIN STEPHEN A. WEISWASSER TIMOTHY N. BLACK SALLY KATZEN F. DAVID LAKE, JR. PAUL J. MODE, JR.

EZEKIEL G. STODDARD GERARD C. SMITH COUNSEL



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I will be pleased to make reservations for you, Jim White and others in New York and here, but I need additional information as to how many of you there will be and what dates you expect to be in New York City and in Washington.

I have been informed by Adrian Winkel that Oscar Rasa met with Congressman Burton, and that the Congressman was quite upset at the issue of the Free Press which contained those disturbing pictures from the 1968 CBS special on hunger in America. Winkel also informed me, as you probably know by now, that the \$1.5 million authorization passed the House in precisely the same form as it had previously passed the Senate. The vote in the House was 334 to 27.

With best regards,

Sincerely, Michael S. Helfer

Enclosure

cc: Howard P. Willens Eleanor O'Hara James Leonard James White

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