

OFFICE OF TRANSITION STUDIES AND PLANNING  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
P.O. BOX 42  
SAIPAN, AMERICAN MARIANAS 96950



Northern Mariana Islands



June 18, 1976

Howard P. Willens, Esq.  
Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering  
1666 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Willens:

Thank you for your letter of May 21, 1976 accepting the intention of the Office of Transition Studies and Planning to retain Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering as a consultant to the Office for the Marianas Constitutional Convention.

The decision of the Office to retain your firm was based on the recommendations of all Marianas members to the U.S.-Marianas Joint Commission.

Funds for the various studies are being provided for in the Office's transition studies budget. However, as you know, the actual availability of sufficient funds for your professional fee would depend upon the Joint Committee's concurrence to reprogram funds to meet your proposed fee of \$150,000. The Office is allowed \$100,000 for the Constitutional Convention, most of which will be used for delegates' expense, including non-professional staff. A portion of these funds, estimated between \$20,000 to \$30,000, may be reprogrammed for legal consultants' fee.

The actual amount budgeted by the Office for "Studies and Planning of Constitutional Convention" amounts to \$50,000. The other studies, "Research and Planning Government Organization," and the "Initial Legislative Programs" do not fall under the general category of legal studies as related to the Constitutional Convention and would, therefore, have to be undertaken as separate studies. However, these would be opened for inclusion on the total legal fee package.

It would take a major effort on my part to convince the Joint Commission to reprogram these funds to supplement the required legal expenses of the Con Con. Because of the specific identification and earmarking of the other studies, it will be difficult to reprogram funds without eliminating some studies. I hope this won't be necessary.

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It would be more appropriate and desirable, I think, for this Office to lump these studies together and contract them out together with the Constitutional Convention legal work.

I realized that your proposal is different from this, but I hope you recognize the difficulty of the Office in having to come up with your fee under the present transition budget arrangement.

My letter of May 24, 1976 to you indicating the desire of the Office to accept your fee proposal was predicated on the assumption that reprogramming of funds without eliminating any of the studies identified under "Government Re-Organization" will be possible.

I have sent a cable ahead requesting that you travel to Saipan to discuss your firm's contract proposal and also to review the progress of the ConCon preparatory work. I am sure that we can arrive at a mutually satisfactory arrangement of your proposed fee, but it will take more time and support from the Joint Commission.

Sincerely yours,



Pedro A. Tenorio  
Director

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