

Marianas Center
Admin

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July 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MESSRS. SMITH AND PERLIK

Subject: Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention

Unexpected developments in the Northern Marianas have resulted in a postponement of the Constitutional Convention. The Marianas District Legislature and the Resident Commissioner are currently stalemated on the proper electoral mechanism for selecting the delegates to the Convention. It appears now that the Convention will not begin until September, although a continued stalemate may result in a starting date as late as October.

Under these circumstances I believe it is appropriate to consider some reallocation of the time of the three new associates currently working full-time on the project. Although there is much to be done to complete the briefing papers, the delay in the Convention's starting date suggests that their efforts could be best expended over a longer period of time than had been previously anticipated and that some of their time (approximately 50%) could be made available for other projects. (In Mr. Major's case, it might be useful for him to return to Texas to take the bar exam at the end of this month.) It still will be necessary, however, to make these associates available on a full-time basis once the Convention actually begins so that they can participate in the representation required during the programmed 50-day life of the Convention.

I propose that a meeting of the assigning partners be convened to discuss this situation. I would like to participate in this meeting.

H. P. Willens

cc: John H. Pickering

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