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July 14, 1976

Dr. John P. Wheeler, Jr.
48 Nevern Square
London, England SW5

Dear Jake:

I hope that by this time you have received my comments and the other materials which I sent to you last week. I am enclosing two additional draft briefing papers, one on the Legislative Branch and one on the Bill of Rights, for your review.

Enclosed also is another check in the amount of \$1,000 as compensation for your services in connection with the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention. This reflects your investment of time of approximately 10 or 11 days of effort through July 8, 1976 at a rate of \$150 per day. Please feel free to submit another statement at the end of July.

I have finally received some information from Saipan of sufficient reliability to pass on to you. The long and short of it is that the Convention is unlikely to be held until late September or October at the earliest. A stalemate has developed between the District Legislature and the Resident Commissioner regarding the mechanics for choosing the delegates to the Convention. Two enactments of the Legislature have been vetoed by the Resident Commissioner and the Legislature is not scheduled to meet again until August 2. Since it will take a week or two

16097

Dr. John P. Wheeler, Jr.
July 14, 1976
Page Two

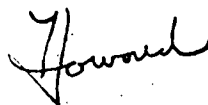
to enact and secure approval (hopefully!) for any legislation and another 30 or 40 days are required to prepare for an election, I think it is most unlikely that any Convention will be convened until October. If the stalemate continues, of course, the Convention could even be further delayed.

In light of the above, I think we can adopt a somewhat more relaxed schedule regarding the completion of the briefing papers and any visit by you to the United States for purposes of reviewing such papers. It seems to me now that such a visit would not be useful until near the end of August or at the beginning of September, but I would like to keep this flexible until we can get some sense of your personal preferences in this regard.

Although it is hard to make any plans under these circumstances, I would like you to give some thought to your possible availability, at least for a few weeks, to participate in the Convention during the months of October or November. By that time, you will have the Hollins program well in hand and the London weather may make Saipan look particularly attractive. In any event, I hope this can be considered a possibility -- if only a remote one -- and we can chat about it when next we meet.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

Enclosures

16098