



Northern Mariana Islands



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

September 27, 1976

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

Dear Howard:

Thank you for your most recent letter, September 21, which we received this afternoon. It is very informative and much appreciated.

"Pete" did not have more than a few minutes to scan it before he embarked on a week-long field trip to the Northern Islands. He has never been north of Saipan before and is taking advantage of going along with the ConCon ballot boxes to several of the islands known to have permanent residents - Homo sapiens, at least. Pete Atalig is in Rota, his home; therefore, I shall attempt to respond to your letter.

Your report on the status of your preparations for the ConCon is most encouraging and the bio-sketches will be very useful in the event questions are raised by the Res Com or delegates regarding the qualifications of the professional staff.

I agree entirely with your observations regarding the difficulty of determining needs in advance of the meetings of the Pre-Convention Committee of 4, three of whom we know, Ben Santos, Jose Cruz from Tinian and Ben Manglona from Rota; the fourth will be a Saipanese, but we won't know who he is until Saipanese members are able to caucus late next week.

Arrangements for facilities and technical staff are firming-up. We have reserved nine rooms plus a large meeting room and your suite at the Inter-Con for business purposes - meeting rooms, staff office space and have been promised the use of facilities and people at the Legislature - NMIL - by Ben Santos. These do not include the private rooms for your people; however, we have reserved tentatively your suite, third floor of the wing gutting-out toward the ocean plus 8 rooms doubles in the same wing. The best rates we could get are \$15.00 per day plus 7% tax and a ten-percent discount on food at the Inter-Con's restaurants. Your suite would cost \$32 per day but can

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accommodate two without strain since it is composed of a bedroom plus a separate sitting room with a hideabed, although it has only one bath.

With regard to your comments on the execution of your contractual responsibilities, I have reviewed Pete's September 14 letter to you and am at a loss to understand the nature of your reaction. You may be sure that neither he nor I have any qualms regarding your intentions and ability to provide the kind of services called for under the contract and more. We have full confidence in your professional work and judgment as to the talent which will probably be required to do the job properly. In short, I know of no reason for you to feel in any way sensitive about our views regarding your current or future performance in this project area. I believe that Pete's allusions to possible questions were based solely on anticipations regarding possible questions from those in the Marianas who are not yet reconciled to the OTSP and our unusual charter i.e. autonomy. We are also concerned about our ability to explain the need for whatever we do or ask others to do; we don't wish to have to appear to "pass the buck" in a project area as crucial to a successful transition to commonwealth status as the Con Con. Be assured, however, that we have no intention to get involved in the substance of your work or attempt to second-guess your decisions regarding the means required. On the other hand, we do feel somewhat responsible for your selection and performance and wish to be informed in the event questions arise.

You have my word that we will do our utmost to support you and your people to the best of our capabilities. The task you and your staff have agreed to undertake is far from simple, as you know, and I hope that you will regard us as a prime source of support and will use our staff and resources, meager as they may be, to the fullest extent possible. I don't yet know the essential character of the main issues or which ones will tend to dominate the proceedings, but we will do our best to gather pertinent information prior to the 11th of October.

With respect to the figure of 100 copies, I doubt that more than 70 will be required here - one for each delegate and key staff, plus ten or twelve extras. I have forgotten the reasons for the 100, but I realize that it is prudent to plan for more than can be positively identified as required. As you say, we need to be flexible until after the Con Con gets itself organized - God only knows how this will turn out, but we do know that Ben Santos and others will be looking to you for advice on organization and procedures.

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We have done our best to persuade all concerned that English (American style) should be the official and only language of record - otherwise your task would be complicated and the costs of the convention will break our bank. "Pete" is optimistic regarding the Con Con's final decision on this but we know little to nothing regarding other organizational issues.

I shall go ahead with the room reservations at the Saipan Beach Inter-Continental on the basis of the rates quoted on the dates mentioned in your letter. I shall also ask Pete Atalig to ensure that you have appropriate documentation for your arrival plus 60 days or more. You will be met on the morning of the 10th.

Finally, I have also requested prompt payment of the August billing 22,6K; I trust it arrives prior to your departure.

Thanks again for your letter and let us know your views on any other possible requirements, technical staff or equipment. We look forward to a most interesting autumn and know that it will be that, at least as long as you are a contributor. My best wishes to you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Stephen A. Loftus, Jr.
Deputy Director

Enclosure

SAL:es

xc: Marianas/Washington LNO

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Saipan Beach

INTER-CONTINENTAL INN

MARIANA ISLANDS

September 20, 1976

Mr. Stephen Loftus
Deputy Director
Office of Transition Studies & Planning
P.O. Box 977
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950 .

Re: Constitutional Convention - October 18 - December 6, 1976

Dear Mr. Loftus:

After our last week's discussion on the above convention, we are pleased to outline the following quotation of prices:

(9) Rooms to be used as secretarial space - ~~\$15.00~~^{12.50} a day.

Rooms to be used by guests - \$15.00 a day + 7% tax.

Convention room at \$50.00 a day.

Suite of Mr. Willens - \$32.00 a day.

Food discount for Mr. Willens and associates - 10%.

Hoping that these prices will suit your requirements, please do not hesitate to call on us for further information.

Sincerely,

Miguel Cerquda
Assistant Manager
i/c of Food & Beverage



*complete address,
Although you may also
use our Box # 42.*

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