November 3, 1976

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

Dear Jake:

The Convention if proceeding quite well.   The
Pre-Convention Committee parcelled the work of the
Convention out to three substantive Committees: Govern-
mental Institutions (covering the three branches of
government and Washington representative); Personal
Rights and Natural Resources (covering Eligibility to
Vote, Bill of Rights, Natural Resources and Land Aliena-
tion) and Finance and Local Government (covering Taxation,
Local Government, Education, Corporations and other matters).
This structure is working efficiently. About three-fourths
of the proposed constitutional articles have been reported
one by the Committees and a number have been adopted in
principle by the Convention.

I have enclosed copies of the Committee Reports
and proposed constitutional articles that have been
produced thus far. As you will see, there is relatively
little legislative matter that has been included. I would
appreciate it if you would review the proposed constitu-
tional language and send us your comments indicating any
ambiguity or hidden dangers that we may have overlooked.

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Under the present schedule, we will have all of the draft articles reported out by the Committees by November 10. The Convention will then recess for a week of public hearings on the various islands and reconvene by November 15 to begin adopting provisions in final form. We do not now expect that we will need to assemble a panel of experts for the public hearings. The issues on which there are substantial remaining differences are primarily political and have to do with the accommodation of local island interests without creating local island governments.

I hope you will be able to send us the results of your review before the Convention reconvenes on November 15. Thereafter we will be trying to polish the drafting and follow a consistent clear style. Your recommendations in those regards will be welcomed.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

Enclosures