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May 26, 1977

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Mr. Howard N. Mantel
Director, Government Programs
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55 West 44th Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Howard:

I had a surprise visit yesterday from Neil Solomon who informed me that by this time you should probably be back in New York. I hope you have recovered from the rigors of your stay in Saipan, although I doubt that a new refrigerator in your room amounted to any savings in calories whatsoever.

As you anticipated, both Jim Leonard and I had conversations with Joe Screen. Joe sounds more reasonable when he is looking for a job than he is at cocktail parties in Saipan. Actually, I hope there is some way that Ruth Van Cleve can find a way to use his expertise and aggressive bureaucratic capacities.

With respect to your comments on the effective date of the income tax law, I do not believe there is any necessity from the wording of the Covenant that the effective date for the new Constitution can be no later than the end of 1977. The effective date is supposed to be no longer than six months after the United States approves the document which, in light of the formal receipt date of April 23, 1977, could be as late

Mr. Howard N. Mantel
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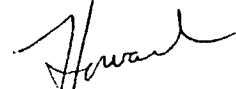
as October. This is unlikely to be the case, however, since we understand that OMB is scheduled to submit its Report to the President on this subject by June 17, 1977. From what we have heard so far, there appear to be no problems developing within the various agencies assigned to review the Constitution. Frankly, I think the matter is helped somewhat by the presence in the General Counsel's position at DOD of one of our former colleagues. I expect to hear within the next week or so if any difficulties have arisen.

There has been some interest in whether United States citizens can run in the first election and we were asked to write a formal opinion letter on this subject. The letter went out of this office yesterday and concludes, as you would expect, that persons who are presently United States citizens who meet the other qualifications specified in the Constitution are eligible for office in the Northern Marianas under the new Constitution.

If you have a moment within the next week or so, I would like to chat with you about what's going on generally in the Northern Marianas. If you find your way down here, let me know in advance so I can arrange a luncheon with you and Jim Leonard.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

GWS

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May 7, 1977

Howard P. Willens, Esq.
Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering
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Dear Howard:

Cheerful greetings from the Friendly Shores of Saipan. The most momentous news is the presence in my room of a sparkling new refrigerator, not the old and hallowed Willens fridge, but a brand new baby. Great asset in saving \$\$\$ and calories.

Things proceed apace with much speculation on the candidates for governor. We've been playing around with an elections law and I raised the question of the need for a primary election if the field gets crowded and needs to be narrowed. Mr. Speaker Guerrero assures me this will not happen but his legal counsel (they now have four lawyers working for the legislature) wants me to ~~xxx~~ endorse his bright idea of purchasing computerized voting machines. These were the same ones that caused much chaos in the District of Columbia, & I gather.

I told the good speaker that in my judgment the new legislature can operate effectively and deal with the massive job that confronts them at lower cost than the present legislature (whose budget is circa \$700,000). My quaint notion is no repeat no off-island trips except for substantial reasons. According to the Marianas Variety ~~xxxx~~ half of the worthies presently are on junkets. On a more serious vein I am trying to persuade resident commissioner that he should take the lead in lining up names of candidates for key spots in the new government, particularly ones that in all likelihood will have to be recruited from the mainland. This will not bar the governor's right to choose his cabinet and staff but will aid in the process. I'm meeting with Tenorio and Canham on Monday on this.

Had lunch with Joe Screen last week who vented at length ~~about~~ his opinion (almost entirely negative) of everyone, including particularly Resident Commissioner. Screen is off this weekend to Washington to persuade Ruth Van Cleve to fire Canham immediately and replace him with--who else--Joe Screen!!

^{An}
~~The~~ IRS team was in ^{Saipan} reviewing the staffing needs et al on beginning the ~~xxxxxx~~ territorial income tax in January. Their conclusion is that with the right infusion of personnel, including experts from IRS for training and direction, the new system can be installed in January ~~and~~, reducing any suggestion that the effective date for the Constitution should be held over until after January 1st. (I gather from the wording of the Covenant that the effective date should be no later than end of December 1977 so that ~~the~~ S.c. 601 of the ~~xxx~~ Covenant (I think that's the section on the tax) will be effective and the new ~~tax~~ will come into force on January 1, 1978).

NO

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Any progress on the Presidential Commission on the review of federal laws pertaining to the Marianas. There is some movement at this end in getting the legislature to make suggestions for the locals who should be appointed to the Commission...I wouldn't mind being named to ~~be~~ that commission myself, but I won't push the idea.


I think I found a minor flaw in the worthy constitution, but I also resolved it: Was it the Constitution's intention that the ~~xxx~~ authority of the civil service commission extend to the position of superintendent of education? Since that is ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ neither an elected nor a gubernatorial position, it could be argued that it is under civil service. On the other hand, since the board of ed appoints the superintendent that would imply that it is not under the CSC. ~~xxxxx~~ In any event since the board makes the appointment and can remove the superintendent, whether the position technically is part of civil service is largely of moot concern.

NO

For your passing information some worthy gubernatorial candidates are emerging: ~~John Sablan~~ John Sablan, Manny Sablan's brother (John is exec officer of TT and quite sharp). The other is David Sablan (not same immediate family) who runs Microl and has business interests in Intercontinental, I believe. Also quite sharp but ~~may~~ is worried whether he is constitutionally ~~xxxxxx~~ eligible since he acquired American citizenship while in ~~in~~ Guam quite some time ago and has not voted here since then.

I trust all goes well with you and WC&P. How is Mme. General Counsel, DOD??

Regards,


HNM