



OFFICE OF TRANSITION STUDIES AND PLANNING
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. BOX 42
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January 4, 1977

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

Dear Howard:

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 1976. We are of course keeping a very close monitoring of news on "Microbugging" and so far nothing has developed locally or from abroad which indicated that MPSC is affected. Personally, I am keeping very low key about the whole thing, and our leaders are not being alarmed by the alleged offense committed against some Micronesians. The COM and others are certainly re-acting and it's to be expected. Steve thinks that he may be called to the hearings as he was one of OMSN staff. I hope that nothing will be uncovered by the hearing which will throw doubt on OMSN activities.

I certainly sympathize with the predicament that Ambassador Williams is in and especially consider unfair the sensationalism of the charges as covered by the press.

With respect to the idea of filing for a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, I would recommend holding off filing until the hearings are completed. We may find from the hearings that MPSC is not affected. However, if the hearings produce information to the contrary, then I feel that filing be carried out by your firm on behalf of the Marianas people. I hope that nothing serious on the part of OMSN negotiations with the Marianas will surface from the hearings as I fear that even a slight indication of "over-reaching" by OMSN will question MPSC's accomplishments and may affect our hope for an overwhelming ratification of the Constitution by our people.

There are indications that some people are not too happy with the Constitution to the degree that they will openly oppose it. Ben Manglona privately assured me that he has no intention now of opposing the Constitution. He said that he will encourage the people

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of Rota to support it. Joe Cruz has not been vocal lately, although his last press word was that he will oppose it. I have a feeling that he will turn around halfway through the political education program and support it instead.

Regarding the creation of an advisory committee for political education on the Constitution, I am enclosing a copy of the bill passed during the last NMIL session which essentially takes the place of the one you recommended to the NMIL delegation in the ConCon. For some reason, the Legislature decided to change the composition as well as the objective of the Commission. It will not be an advocate group, but rather an advisory and impartial group. I am more than disappointed over the Legislature's elimination of OTSP in the final bill as a participating member of the Commission. No sweat off my back, but I just don't appreciate the rotten political game that some people are playing. Anyway, my office will continue to render all the help it is mandated to do and I'll make myself personally involve somehow.

The printing of the Constitution is continuing (total to date 3300 copies) and it is now being disseminated. The Chamorro translation is progressing well; the Carolinian translation is taking more time.

We'll be sending more copies of the Constitution to Eddie very shortly.

The tentative date for the referendum is early March and I hope the political education commission will organize quickly and get on with the important work.

Thanks for the copyright document on the briefing papers.

Best personal regards to you and family and to our many friends at WC&P.

Sincerely,



Pedro A. Tenorio
Director

Enclosure

PAT:es

FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE

EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION

ACT NO. 434-1976

INTRODUCED BY: SEN. OLYMPIO T. BORJA, DELEGATE-AT-LARGE
SEN. LORENZO I. GUERRERO, SAIPAN
SEN. JOSE R. CRUZ, TINIAN
SEN. OSCAR C. RASA, DELEGATE-AT-LARGE
SEN. HERMAN T. PALACIOS, DELEGATE-AT-LARGE
SEN. HERMAN R. GUERRERO, DELEGATE-AT-LARGE

AN ACT TO CREATE AN ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
POLITICAL EDUCATION; TO PRESCRIBE ITS POWERS
AND DUTIES; TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFORE;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE, THAT:

Section 1. Advisory Commission on Political Education. There is hereby created an Advisory Commission on Political Education, which shall consist of the President, the three Vice-Presidents, and the three Chairmen of the substantive committee of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention; ten (10) members to be appointed by the Speaker; four (4) shall be members of the Legislature; four (4) from among the delegates elected to the Constitutional Convention; one (1) from among the employees of the Northern Mariana Islands Government and one from the business and/or professional sector. The Advisory Commission on Political Education shall select a chairman and other officers from among its membership as it deems necessary. The organizational meeting of the Advisory Commission on Political Education shall be called by the Speaker of the Legislature.

Section 2. Duties and Responsibility. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Advisory Commission to assist the Resident Commissioner in the conduct of a political education program concerning the Draft Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands in preparation for the referendum on the Constitution.

Section 3. Remuneration. Members of the Advisory Commission shall not be entitled to salary or other remuneration as members, but shall be entitled to travel and per diem at standard Government rates while on the business of the Advisory Commission; and, if any member is an employee of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, such member shall be entitled to administrative leave with pay while on the business of the Advisory Commission.

Section 4. Term. The term of the Advisory Commission shall extend until thirty (30) days following the conduct of the referendum on the Draft Constitution for the Northern Mariana Islands. The term of appointments shall be for the full term of the Advisory Commission, and vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments.

Section 5. Support. The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands shall provide for administrative, logistic, and personnel support to the Advisory Commission as required, to the extent that the same are determined to be available. The Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Political Education is hereby authorized to employ such additional staff and professional assistance as he deems necessary.

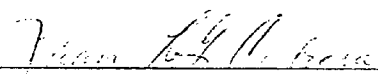
Section 6. Rules. The Advisory Commission shall adopt such rules of procedure not inconsistent herewith as it shall deem necessary or appropriate for the performance of its duties.

Section 7. Report. Prior to the end of its term, the Advisory Commission shall transmit to the Legislature and the Resident Commissioner a full report of its activities and fiscal affairs.


Section 8. Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated out of the Treasury of the Northern Mariana Islands the sum of \$10,000.00 for the purposes of the Advisory Commission as set forth in this Act. The sums appropriated hereby shall remain available to the Advisory Commission for such purposes until the completion of its term of existence, whereupon approval by the Advisory Commission.

Section 9. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Resident Commissioner, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

PASSED BY THE FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE DECEMBER 17, 1976.



JUAN LG. CABRERA
Acting Speaker



SANTIAGO B. MAGOFNA
Legislative Secretary

Signed this _____ day of _____, 1976.

ERWIN D. CANHAM
Resident Commissioner
Government of the Northern Mariana Islands