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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Director, OTSP May 5, 1977

FROM: Howard N. Mantel

SUBJECT: Proposed Organization Plan for the Commonwealth Government

As you know we are proceeding with the task of designing an organization plan for the Commonwealth government consonant with the Constitution adopted on December 5, 1976.

Our goal is a governmental structure that meets the requirements of the constitution, facilitates efficient delivery of public services, and is best suited to the adoption and implementation of plans for social and economic development, capital improvements and effective use of resources.

The system contemplates a substantial strengthening of managerial capability. I see no reason why the budget process for fiscal '79 and, possibly, revisions of the budget for fiscal '78 cannot reflect new organizational arrangements, recognizing that the final shape of the government depends on action by the governor and legislature in 1978.

Following are highlights of the organizational plan as it is presently being designed:

1. The judiciary would consist initially of a Commonwealth Trial Court, organized with three statutory divisions and with authority to establish parts or terms by judicial rule. Judicial personnel for the Court would consist of two full-time Commonwealth Trial Court judges, who would be well qualified attorneys with extensive legal practice or trial court experience.
2. The legislature, consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives, would be organized with three substantive committees for each house, a permanent joint committee to reconcile differences between the houses, a "housekeeping" committee, a combined administrative staff for the two

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houses, and a combined office of professional services with highly qualified professional staff of attorneys and research workers. We anticipate that the Commonwealth Legislature can be operated at lower cost than the present Legislature, reflecting in part constitutional separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches of government and certain other economies.

3. The executive branch would be coordinated through the governor's office, involving the establishment of an executive office of the governor. Day-by-day management responsibilities would be assigned to a professional chief administrative officer reporting to the governor. Assistants to the governor would be appointed with responsibility for planning, budgeting, programs and legislation, grants, and public information and protocol. The training function will be assigned to the chief administrative officer.
4. A governor's cabinet is proposed. The lieutenant governor, executive assistant for Carolinian affairs, and the governor's council, would be located institutionally within the governor's office. The lieutenant governor would have duties and responsibilities assigned to him by the governor; no statutory responsibilities would be assigned for an initial period.
5. Staff agencies of the government would consist of the following offices: attorney general; civil service commission (personnel office); public auditor; and boards of parole, professional licensing, and elections.
6. Eight line departments are proposed: community affairs, economic development, education, emergency services, financial administration, health, natural resources, and public works. Each would be headed by a director appointed by the governor (except the superintendent of education who would be appointed by the board of education) and each would have a planning unit to work closely with the respective director and with the central planning office.
7. Services to be provided on Rota and Tinian would be organized by the respective line departments through the resident department heads. The office of resident commissioner's representative would be abolished. The mayors would exercise their constitutional duties and responsibilities and not be

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assigned additional statutory responsibilities or administrative responsibilities by the governor for an initial period. A deputy chief administrative officer would serve as an expeditor of central services to the islands.

8. Independent or quasi-independent agencies would include the Marianas Public Land Corporation, office of public defender, airport and housing authorities, and, possibly a development bank and public utilities authority.

Howard N. Mantel

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