



July 29, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN JAMES M. ELSTER  
EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION  
ISA, OASD

SUBJECT: Adoption of Constitution by the United States  
Congress - Northern Marianas Islands

Confirming my telephone conversation with you I am enclosing the relevant documents with respect to the adoption and approval of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico which I believe will be the "model" for approving the Constitution of the Northern Marianas Islands. I have attached the Joint Resolution, Public Law 447 - 82d Congress, Second Session, H.J. Res. 430, approved July 3, 1952, the Joint Resolution. I have also attached Public Law 600 - 81st Congress, which would be comparable to Covenant, already adopted with respect to the Northern Marianas but applicable in that case to providing for the organization of a constitutional government by the people of Puerto Rico.

In addition you may wish separately to examine the Puerto Rican Federal Relations Act which was referred to in Section 4 of Public Law 600 and a copy of that is attached because it is not easily accessible. I have also attached Resolutions 22 and 23 approved by the Constitutional Convention of Puerto Rico Northern Plenary Sessions held February 4, 1952.

Further documents of relevance are Resolution 44 (approved in Plenary Session by Puerto Rico, July 10, 1952, Proclamation by the Governor of Puerto Rico and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 748 (VIII).

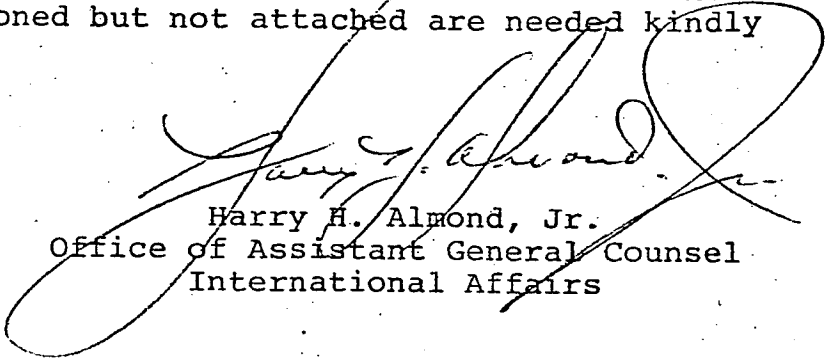
The General Assembly declared that there would be a cessation of transmission of information under Article 73e of the Charter in respect to Puerto Rico.

Copies of these instruments have been attached along with Public Law 808 - 84th Congress and Public Law 85-894 - 85th Congress.

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I call particular attention to the Opinion of the Office of the Attorney General relating to the transfer of Army held land addressed to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mr. Gilpatric, dated September 20, 1961. A document similar to this may be required with respect to the Northern Marianas Islands but I defer on this matter to Mr. Robertson, OGC. In the event that the documents mentioned but not attached are needed kindly let me know.

Attachments as



Harry H. Almond, Jr.  
Office of Assistant General Counsel  
International Affairs

cf: Mr. Abramowitz  
Mr. Robertson