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November 29, 1977

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Dear Eddie:

Thank you for your very nice letter of November 23, 1977. Needless to say, all of your friends here at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering are following the election campaign closely and wish you the best of luck. I cannot imagine having anyone else here in Washington at this time as Washington representative but you.

I am glad to hear that planning is underway for the ceremonies on January 9, 1978. As the plan firms up, I think I might be of assistance in getting it implemented here in Washington. I hope you will encourage Dave Sablan or one of his associates to send me a copy of the proposed invitation list from the Executive Branch so that we do not depend again exclusively on the Department of Interior. I look forward to being a part of the happy crowd.

In the very same mail as your letter, I received a check from the Northern Marianas Legislature for services rendered. I very much appreciate the persistent efforts you have made with the Legislature to secure some reimbursement to this firm for its services. I think that the new government will have to decide what kind of representation it desires in Washington and make appropriate arrangements with this

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firm or any other firm that it desires to represent it on a continuing basis in Washington. Looking ahead, I am especially concerned about the possibility of a substantial challenge to one or more provisions of the Covenant and Northern Marianas Constitution.

Although I know you have no time at the moment, I am enclosing a copy of the article that Deanne and I have written regarding certain of the legal questions raised by the Northern Marianas Constitution. I think that you will find much of it familiar material. We concede that it may sound like a brief in defense of the Constitution but, then again, what would you expect from us?

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

Enclosure