

BRIEFING PAPERS

FOR THE DELEGATES

TO THE

NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Convened at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

October 18, 1976

Prepared by

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Office of Transition Studies and Planning
Government of the Northern Mariana Islands

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FOREWORD

These briefing papers were prepared by the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering pursuant to an agreement dated July 15, 1976, with the Office of Transition Studies and Planning. Under the terms of this agreement the firm undertook to prepare briefing papers for the delegates to the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention and to provide additional professional services in connection with the Convention.

These papers were prepared under the supervision of three members of the firm: Howard P. Willens, Deanne C. Siemer and Jay F. Lapin. The following lawyers associated with the firm assisted on the project: Paul S. Koffsky, Robert A. Major, Neal S. Solomon and A. Mark Weisburd. The firm also wishes to acknowledge the substantial contribution made to this undertaking by the non-legal personnel of the firm.

The following consultants reviewed some of the briefing papers and made useful suggestions: James R. Leonard, Jr., Vice President of Robert R. Nathan & Associates; Howard N. Mantel, Director of Government Programs at the Institute of Public Administration; and John P. Wheeler, Jr., Professor of Political Science at Hollins College in Virginia. The firm appreciates the time and effort that these individuals and their respective organizations contributed to the project.

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering has welcomed this opportunity to assist the people of the new Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the preparation of their first Constitution. We wish the Constitutional Convention every success in this important endeavor.

WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING
Washington, D.C.

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