

WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING
1666 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

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Memorandum for the Constitutional Convention

Subject: Current draft of the Constitution

Attached is a copy of the Constitution reflecting the action of the Convention on second reading with respect to all provisions of the document except two sections of the Schedule on Transitional Matters. This draft incorporates numerous changes made by the consultants for reasons of accuracy, style, clarity and consistency. In addition, some minor changes have been made to respond to minor problems which might impede prompt approval of the Constitution by the United States.

As you review this document, I would like to direct your attention to the following provisions in particular:

1. As discussed by the Convention yesterday, I have included language in sections 2 and 3 of article IV to cover the problem which might arise if the United States fails to constitute promptly a United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. Having made this change, there no longer is a need for former section 4 dealing with the United States District Court and it has been eliminated in this draft.

2. With respect to section 6 of article IV, the statement of grounds for impeaching judges has been shortened and made consistent with the statement of grounds for impeaching executive branch officials.

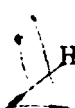
3. Because of deletions made in article II relating to impeachment, it was necessary to add a new section 7 in article V to provide for impeachment of the Washington representative on the same grounds applicable to the governor and lieutenant governor. This is now section 7 of article V.

4. References to "international law" have been deleted from section 1 of article XI and section 1 of article XIV as unnecessary and susceptible to misunderstanding by United States officials.

5. Section 6 of article XI has been slightly modified with respect to the funds received from the United States for the leasing of land in order to insure compliance with the Covenant.

6. Section 3 of article XIV has been slightly reworded with respect to the removal from the Commonwealth of artifacts of historical or cultural significance.

I would appreciate your careful review of this document and your raising with me any question you may have regarding the language used in the Constitution.

 Howard P. Willens