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August 15, 1995

BY FAX

Mr. Herman T. Guerrero
Chair, Post Convention Committee
Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention
Second Floor, Joeten Dandan Center
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Herman:

Thanks for your prompt response to our message of yesterday. Incidentally, I sent a copy of the Constitution and Analysis to the office of the Resident Representative, although Mr. Babauta may still be out in Saipan. I offered to brief him and his staff at their convenience if they were interested.

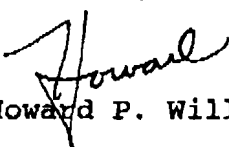
Attached is the proposed news release of the day. Deanne and I have a bet on whether you will distribute this article and, if so, if anyone will print it. Please let us know which of us wins this wager.

I see from the Marianas Variety that the Board of Elections is already criticizing us for not making the proposed amendments available to the Board for printing on the ballot. Thank you for sending us the recent correspondence on the subject.

I am also attaching the names and fax numbers of the press contacts in Saipan that we were distributing the releases to. I expect that you or Alicia already have such a list, but I wanted to make certain of that fact.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,


Howard P. Willens

Attachments

August 15, 1995

POST-CONVENTION SUMMARY

Article 19: Commonwealth Unity

Commonwealth unity provides the theme for the last article of the Commonwealth Constitution as amended by the recently concluded Constitutional Convention. "I think the delegates found during the Convention that there is a lot that binds the three islands together and relatively few things on which we have differences," Convention President Herman T. Guerrero pointed out. "We thought the Commonwealth Unity idea should be made a prominent part of our Constitution, so that our children know how much we value it."

Article 19, which is entitled Commonwealth Unity, is made up of sections on the oath of office, the official seal, the Commonwealth flag, the three official languages, and the capital. The provision for Saipan as the capital of the Commonwealth is new. The delegates added it, noting that all of the states in the United States, even the smallest, have a state capital. Four sections had been in the Constitution; the oath of office was a part of the original Constitution prepared in 1976, and the other three sections on the seal, flag, and languages were added in 1985.

The new article, bringing these sections together at the end of the Constitution, arose out of a delegate proposal by Guerrero. "I was impressed by the fact that most of our amendments were passed with an overwhelming majority, usually 20 to 22 or 22 to 3 in the voting," said Guerrero. "We may have differences among the islands on local government, but when it comes to the legislature, the executive branch, the judicial branch, and the other fundamental parts of our government structure, the delegates from the three islands were very consistently of one mind."

The Convention tinkered with the language describing the official seal. The color blue specified in the 1985 amendments was changed to Marianas Trench blue in order to end a debate about whether the seal, and the flag which includes the same symbols, should be a light blue or dark blue. "Marianas Trench blue" is a color that is uniquely ours," explained Guerrero, who also presided over the 1985 Constitutional Convention. "We thought that we were clear about the color back in 1985, but since then you find seals and flags using all different colors of blue. This time, we put in the archives, an artist's rendition

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of the flag using the proper dark blue. We called that Marianas Trench blue."

The Convention also changed the wording on the seal. It formerly had "Official Seal" at the bottom under the Latte Stone. Under the new amendments, that wording is dropped and the date "1978" is substituted, signalling the start of constitutional government in the Commonwealth.

Article 19 was prepared and sponsored by the Committee on Executive Branch and Local Government, chaired by Felix R. Nogis, who is also a member of the Post-Convention Committee approved by the Convention before it adjourned. "You see Commonwealth seals in various government offices that are different," said Nogis. "If you go from the House chamber to the Senate chamber, you will see different Commonwealth seals. Also, if you go over to the court chambers, you will see still another version. And the Governor's office has even a different one. We thought it would be useful to change the seal so that we could get them all standardized." If the amendments proposed by the Convention are approved by the voters, all current Commonwealth seals will be out of date and will be replaced. "This will be done over time, as new seals are needed," commented Nogis, "but gradually as they are replaced, they will all be in conformance with the Constitution."

One of the delegates, Donald B. Mendiola, who teaches indigenous culture and crafts, insisted on the correct spelling of the flowers specified as a part of the official seal. "The 1985 Convention had used the Spanish spelling. I thought it was important to change to the correct Chamorro spelling," said Mendiola. The change, viewed by the delegates as a small but significant correction, was passed without opposition.

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PRESS CONTACTS IN SAIPAN

Contact	Fax No.
<i>Saipan Cable TV</i> Attn: Jeff	235-6363
<i>Observer</i>	233-7040
<i>Voices</i> Attn: Henry Solis	235-8661
<i>Saipan Tribune</i> Attn: Dan Phillips	235-3733
<i>Marianas Variety</i> Attn: Editorial	234-9271
<i>Travis</i>	235-3352
<i>Pacific Daily News</i> Attn: Gaynor	234-5986
<i>Pacific Star</i> Attn: Nick Legasdi	235-3450
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Company: **Main Number:** 011 670 235-0843
From: Howard P. Willens, Esq.

COMMENTS:

We are beginning to send a communication of 5 pages (including this cover sheet). If transmission is interrupted or of poor quality, please notify us immediately by telephone at (202) 663-6712.

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