

MACMEEKIN & WOODWORTH
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SUITE 801
1776 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

DANIEL H. MACMEEKIN
DONALD C. WOODWORTH

TELEPHONE (202) 228-1717
FAX (202) 228-1459
TELEX 850-298-0776
MCI MAIL 295-0776

March 30, 1995

BY FAX

Mr. Herman T. Guerrero
Executive Assistant to the Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands
Administration Building, Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Fax: (670) 322-5102

Re: Constitutional Convention

Dear Jun:

Thank you for keeping us apprised of developments with respect to the Constitutional Convention and for sending us Public Law 9-18.

We would very much like to provide legal services to the Convention, to the pre-Convention Committee, or to the Saipan Delegation. Because we are not located in the Commonwealth, we do not feel we can submit a formal proposal to undertake and supervise all legal services to be provided to the Committee and the Convention. One or both of us can travel to the Commonwealth as necessary during the pre-Convention and Convention periods, but the overall direction of legal services should properly be with someone who is in the Commonwealth during the entire process.

What we can do, either for the Convention itself, the pre-Convention Committee, the Saipan Delegation, or for the legal consultants who are selected to direct the legal services pursuant to the March 29 announcement is to draft provisions on selected subjects, with supporting analysis. For that matter, we can do this sort of work for the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth Government itself, which will no doubt want to take positions on many of the issues that will be before the Convention.

Mr. Herman T. Guerrero
March 29, 1995
Page 2

You are well acquainted with both of us and know our abilities and are familiar with much of the work we have done in the past. We send herewith a description of our firm. We would appreciate your circulating this description to the various bidders for the prime contract to provide legal services to the Commonwealth and to any other persons or groups such as the Saipan Delegation, which may desire to have their own legal counsel available.

Rules of Procedure. One of the projects that interests us is drafting the Rules of Procedure for the Convention. We drafted the Rules of Procedure for the Section 902 Consultations and have worked in the past with the rules for the Micronesian (now FSM) and Palau Constitutions. We also have good access here in Washington to rules of procedure used in State and national constitutional conventions elsewhere. We would be willing to provide an initial draft of Rules of Procedure for \$12,500, and to provide additional work as needed to revise those rules at a rate of \$140.00 per hour.

Oceans issues. As you know, we have long worked on law of the sea and submerged lands issues involving the Commonwealth. We would provide, for \$10,000, an analysis of the current provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution, with a view to making sure the Constitution contains the best possible protection of the Commonwealth's rights in these areas, and draft language to make any recommended amendments. Again, if additional work is needed after we provide the draft analysis and amendatory language, we would charge \$140.00 for that work.

Other issues. We do not know in which particular issues the Convention Delegates will be most interested. Other issues we have previously addressed that may come before the Convention include:

- * Citizenship, immigration and alien labor;
- * Article XII restraints on alienation of land to persons not of Northern Marianas descent;
- * Resident representative and nonvoting delegate

As you know, we have addressed a wide variety of Commonwealth-related issues in recent years. We send herewith a list of some of those issues. We could provide prompt and cost-effective legal advice on any of these subjects

* * *

Mr. Herman T. Guerrero
March 29, 1995
Page 3

The Constitutional Convention will determine how the Commonwealth's right to self-government will be exercised in the future. We would like to be involved in assisting the Commonwealth in making these determinations.

Please let us know how we may be of service. With best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Donald C. Woodworth



Daniel H. MacMeekin

Accompanying documents, as noted