



Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention Pre-Convention Committee

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2, 1995

TO : Pre-Convention Committee
FROM : The Legal Subcommittee
SUBJECT : Hiring Local Lawyers For The Legal Team

The Legal Subcommittee recommends that the Pre-Convention Committee defer any decision on hiring local lawyers for the legal team until the availability of supplemental funding is known.

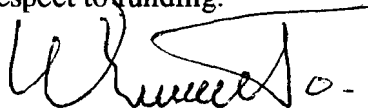
The Legal Subcommittee recommends that the Pre-Convention authorize lead counsel to discuss further with local lawyers who have indicated an interest in working for the Convention the terms on which they would be willing to participate. If funding becomes available, the Committee on Organization and Procedures can then move quickly to augment the legal team to the extent that additional lawyers are necessary to the tasks at hand.

The Legal Subcommittee recommends that lead counsel be directed to come up with a contingency plan, for consideration by the Committee on Organization and Procedures, for ways in which the Convention proceedings could be made less costly, less time-consuming, and more efficient.

The Legal Subcommittee is concerned about the funding situation because the hiring of local lawyers will require \$40,000 to \$60,000 which the Convention does not have at this time, and because there are other priorities, such as the court reports and administrative staff for the Convention, which may create a more immediate demand on such additional funds as do become available.

The Legal Subcommittee has considered the extensive work done by the legal team to interview local lawyers, to obtain fixed fee proposals that involve substantial fee discounts, and to plan for integration of local lawyers into the existing legal team. Over the past five weeks, eleven lawyers in different firms were interviewed, and commitments

to fixed fee proposals were obtained from 7 of them. The Legal Subcommittee has provided input for the consideration of lead counsel in these regards. The Committee on Organization and Procedures may have further input. The Legal Subcommittee believes that it has accomplished all that can be done at this stage, given the uncertainty with respect to funding.



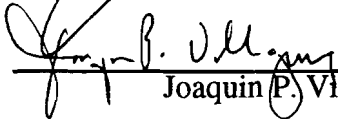
Carlos S. Camacho, Chair



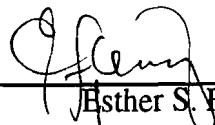
Herman T. Guerrero



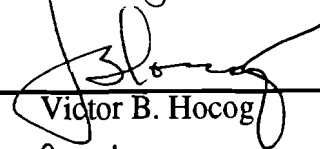
James M. Mendiola



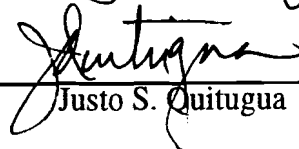
Joaquin P. Villagomez



Esther S. Fleming



Victor B. Hocog



Justo S. Quitugua