



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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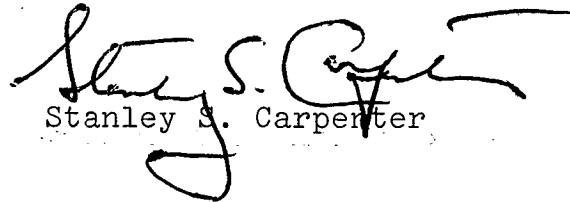
Memorandum

To: James M. Wilson, Jr.
Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations

From: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Territorial
Affairs

Subject: Letter from Ralph W. Gerbron to President Nixon

We have just received the attached letter dated January 29, 1973 from Ralph W. Gerbron of Sarasota, Florida, to President Nixon, regarding the political status of the Mariana Islands. It will be appreciated if your office would reply to this letter.


Stanley S. Carpenter

Attachment

03- 023271

Territorial Affairs

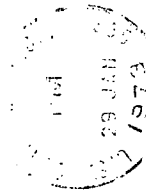
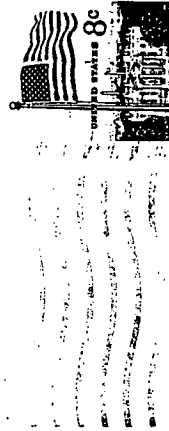
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| <input type="checkbox"/> ASST. SECY. | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Mikkila |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DASTA | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Mitchell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Wyatt | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Green |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Radewagen | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Ryu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. deYoung | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Young |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Dunn | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Barkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Whittington | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Smiler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Maga | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Aldrich | <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Cranford |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Services |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O.M.S.N. | |

Action copy to _____
Remarks:

023272

INT: 4096-73



Ralph W. Gerbron
Plymouth Harbor, Apt. W-306
700 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota, Florida 33577

President Richard M. Nixon,

Washington,

D.C.



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January 29, 1973

Dear President Nixon:

As a good citizen, I hope, I protest strongly against assuming more and more foreign commitments.

Below shown is another situation that will consume U.S. taxpayer's money and a time when we are seriously in debt and not meeting many of our obligations at home.

The Mariana Islands are far removed, no obligation of ours; just another situation that in time could involve us in one more military confrontation. We hope we are now getting out of one in rather a sad way.

It surely is about time the Administration and Congress gave a hard look at our numerous foreign commitments and canceled out most of them, especially those that could drag us into World War Three.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Ralph W. Gerbron
700 J. Ringling Blvd. Apt. W-306
Sarasota, Florida 33577

U.S. News and World Report - Jan. 29, 1973

"ORPHAN" ISLES SEEK TO JOIN U.S.

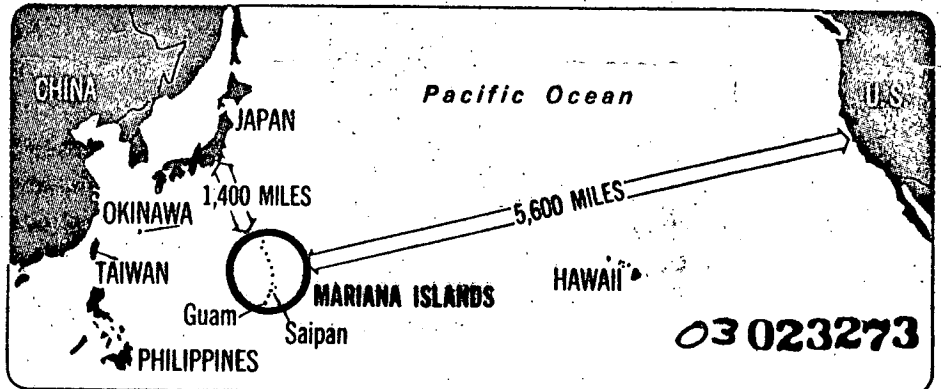
SAIPAN

A mountainous chain of islands where some of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific were fought in World War II is now heading toward union with the U. S.

Negotiations are scheduled to start here in a few weeks on a proposal by the Mariana Islands for a "close and permanent affiliation with the United States."

The area of 14 main isles—not including nearby Guam, which has been a part of the U. S. for decades—wants to break off from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands of which it is now a part. The Trust Territory, known as Micronesia, is governed by the U. S. for the United Nations, but five of the six Micronesian districts are seeking a more independent status.

The Marianas, however, want to strengthen, not loosen, their ties with America. Islanders say their relationships have generally been warm with the hundreds of American administrators, teachers and servicemen who have lived here on and off since the region was captured from the Japanese in



dents voted for an American identity, and only 25 opposed such action. The district's total population today is about 13,000.

In 1972, the region's elected officials notified the Congress of Micronesia of their intention to seek a union with America. In a letter to the U. S. Government, the Marianas group declared:

"We pledge to you and your Government our loyalty and dedication to the principles for which America stands, and

the possibility of an association with Guam, but Guamanian voters turned down the idea and it has not been revived with much enthusiasm.

Jobs and money. Some employees of the Trust Territory Government, which has headquarters here, fear they will lose their jobs if and when the Micronesian capital is moved. Others believe that an expected infusion of grants and investments from the U. S. will more than make up for possible losses.