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November 6, 1973

The attached letter enclosing the background memorandum on the Marianas was sent to the following Senators, who form the Senate Subcommittee on Territories and Insular Affairs:

Senator James Abourezk

Senator Henry M. Jackson

Senator Lee Metcalf

Senator Paul J. Fannin.

Senator Dewey F. Bartlett

Senator James L. Buckley

The Chairman of this subcommittee, Senator J. Bennett Johnston, Jr., received his copy by letter on October 16, 1973

01-05198

November 6, 1973

Senator Henry M. Jackson
Room #137
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

This firm represents the Marianas Political Status Commission in current negotiations with the United States regarding the future political status of the Mariana Islands. The Marianas are one of six districts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, currently administered by the United States under a United Nations Trusteeship Agreement.

The United States has agreed to separate negotiations with the Mariana Islands because of the desire of the Marianas' people to have a close and permanent relationship with the United States, whereas the other five districts in the Trust Territory are negotiating for a looser relationship known as free association. The next session of negotiations between the United States and the Marianas Political Status Commission is scheduled to begin in Saipan on December 6, 1973.

Since any formal status agreement between the Marianas and the United States will require the approval of Congress, as well as the people of the Mariana Islands, I thought that you might be interested in a current report regarding the status of these negotiations in your capacity as a member of the Subcommittee on Territories and Insular Affairs. Enclosed for your information is a memorandum summarizing the progress made in the negotiations during the past year and identifying some of the issues which remain to be resolved by the parties.

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If you or members of your staff are interested in exploring any aspects of the Marianas negotiations further, I would very much appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

Enclosure