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April 27, 1974

Mr. Randolph L. Marshall
Director
International Programs
Institute of Public Administration
1619 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I apologize for my belated response to Dr. Fitch's letter of April 3, 1974, enclosing the Institute's preliminary report on planning for self-government in the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The report has already proven very helpful to us. We have been able to reach agreement within the Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee on a very substantial planning program in the areas covered by your report. If this recommendation is acceptable to the principals during the next session of negotiations, currently scheduled to begin on May 15 in Saipan, then steps toward implementation of this planning effort will begin. I want you to know that my colleagues and I are very appreciative of your careful submission. We regard it as the most professional report which we have received in this general area and we are planning to distribute it to the members of the Marianas Political Status Commission. As soon as it appears that funds will be made available by Congress for this transitional planning program, I am confident that our client or other representatives of the Marianas will want to pursue the matter further with you.

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- 2 -

I will be leaving Washington on Friday, May 3, and will not be back in my office until Monday, June 3. I hope that shortly after my return we can get together to discuss the current status of the negotiations and review in more detail your report. On behalf of my client, I want to thank you and Dr. Fitch for your courtesy and significant contribution to our negotiations.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

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