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May 31, 1974

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS' STATEMENT AT CLOSING SESSION

Mr. Chairman, Members of the MPSC

Last evening the American Delegation and I had the pleasure of hosting a reception for the Marianas Political Status Commission and we were joined by the Acting HiCom and the Marianas District Administrator. At that reception, several members of both our delegations made impromptu remarks ranging from the serious to the humorous. And out of those comments and from the spirit that exists between our two delegations, something has become very clear to me. It is that while the individual memberships of our delegations may change, two principles have always remained constant and are as alive now as ever. First is the quietly sincere desire of the Marianas, stated so often before, to join in a close and permanent union with the United States of America. And the second and, I feel, equally important constant is the desire and commitment of America to welcome the people of the Marianas into the family. Taken together, these two principles mean we are both reaching for new

horizons - as you reach to join the United States,  
so America extends its hand to you.

Mr. Chairman, as I bring this fourth round of negotiations to a close I find myself repeating something I have said before on occasions like this - that we have made substantial progress toward our common objectives. But in this fourth round we have seen movement and progress on many planes. Not only in the understandings and tentative agreements we have reached but also in our understanding of each other, and each other's society. This I believe marks a major step in realizing the political and cultural association we are working so hard to achieve.

As we leave the Marianas for our homes on the mainland and as you return to your loved ones and people, let us remember that the only true measure of what we have done here and what we will do lies in the happiness and security and quality of life which we build for our children and theirs.

THANK YOU