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June 5, 1974

Mr. Jack Rosenthal  
Assistant Editor  
Sunday New York Times  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Jack:

I enjoyed running into you on the street in Washington a month or so ago and I wish that our paths would cross more frequently. Because I know that you have nothing else to do, I am enclosing a copy of the joint communique issued last Friday, May 31, summarizing the results of our most recent session of negotiations with the United States on behalf of the Mariana Islands. I am also enclosing a copy of the background memorandum prepared in this office before the last session. The agreements reflected in the joint communique virtually ensure that the Mariana Islands will become a Commonwealth within the United States before too many years have passed - probably the last territorial acquisition made by the United States and the first to be arrived at as a result of free and open negotiations.

I would really appreciate your informed judgment regarding what coverage, if any, would serve my ultimate goal of encouraging enlightened and fair consideration of the proposed new status for the Marianas on its merits. Based upon my work over the past 18 months, I expect that the new status will be challenged by those with an anti-military bias and those who believe that the United States

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acquiescence in separate negotiations with the Marianas has made it impossible for Micronesia as a whole to survive as a viable political and economic entity. In addition, I also expect some vigorous complaints from Guam and the other territories who feel that the Marianas are in the process of negotiating a preferred status with the United States. There is going to be a very critical study produced by the Carnegie Endowment on Micronesia sometime later this year which will take a very dim view of the Marianas status negotiations and I am concerned about its impact among influential members of Congress. Do you have any thoughts?

I am looking forward to a reasonably relaxed summer. My daughter Sarah (11 years) is off to England and Spain for a month as the guest of friends, my son Jonathan (15 years) is off for a six-week bicycle trip in western Canada and the state of Washington. Peggy (13 years) is off to her Minnesota camp again for seven weeks and Tricia (7 years) remains at home for day camp. That leaves Susan and myself free to recuperate from raising and supervising this very active group and to reflect on the retirement years ahead.

Why don't you and Marilyn come to Washington for a nostalgic week-end?

Best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

Enclosures