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June 28, 1974

Senator J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.
Room #432
Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator:

Enclosed is a summary report which we have prepared on behalf of the Marianas Political Status Commission regarding the current negotiations aimed at bringing the Marianas under United States sovereignty as a Commonwealth. This report reflects the results achieved at the fourth session of negotiations, which concluded in Saipan on May 31, 1974.

As the report demonstrates, the parties have continued to make substantial progress. During the last session, the Marianas agreed to make land available to the United States for defense purposes, including approximately 17,475 acres on Tinian for a joint service military complex. In addition, the parties reached agreement on a transitional planning program for the Marianas and long-term direct financial assistance from the United States for the new government of the Northern Marianas. Committees established by the parties will be working during this recess on the issues remaining to be resolved, as well as the language of the formal status agreement. Although no firm date has been set, we anticipate that the next session of the negotiations will be scheduled for the early Fall of 1974, and that the negotiations can be concluded before the end of this year.

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I hope that you or a member of your staff will have the opportunity to review the enclosed summary report. If you have any questions regarding the report or the current status of our negotiations, I am available to discuss the matter at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens

Enclosure

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