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September 19, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MPSC FILE

SUBJECT: Return of Public Lands

I spoke to Steven Sander of the Interior Department today about the legislation recently passed by the Mariana Islands District Legislature concerning the return of public lands. Mr. Sander said that he had not reviewed and he did not have a copy of that legislation. I told him that I had a copy of what we thought was the legislation, though it might have a page missing, and that I would send it over to him. He promised to send over to me anything that he got which was different.

Since he had not reviewed the legislation, Mr. Sander expressed no substantive views about it. He is to call me after he has reviewed the legislation. Mr. Sander did say that he thought the District Administrator would not act on the legislation until it had been cleared by the Interior Department. Under 3 T.T.C. § 53(1)(1970), a bill passed by the District Legislature becomes law if not disapproved by the District Administrator "within thirty calendar days" after it is presented to him.

Michael S. Helfer

cc: H. P. Willens  
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September 19, 1974

Stephen D. Sander, Esq.  
 Staff Assistant for Political  
 and Legislative Affairs  
 Room 4311  
 Department of the Interior  
 Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Steve:

In accordance with our conversation this afternoon, there is enclosed a copy of what we were told is the bill passed by the Mariana Islands District Legislature concerning public lands. Howard Willens received a copy of this from James Wilson.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Helfer

Enclosure

cc: Howard Willens, Esq.

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