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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

NOV 28 1974

Dear Mr. Magofna:

Secretary Morton has asked me to acknowledge his receipt of Resolution No. 1-1974, Fourth Marianas Islands District Legislature, First Special Session, adopted September 7, 1974, requesting "That the Mariana Islands District be Administered Separately from the Other Districts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands."

During the Fourth Session of Negotiations between the Marianas Political Status Commission and the President's Personal Representative for Marianas Status Negotiations held on Saipan last May this request was also made by the Marianas Political Status Commission to Ambassador Williams.

Pursuant to the Agreement reached at that time to take the matter under further advisement and study, this Office, in consultation with Trust Territory officials, has begun a preliminary study of the matter.

The Resolution will certainly receive sympathetic consideration. The Trust Territory will be asked to discuss this matter with appropriate representatives of the Marianas upon request.

I am informed that Ambassador Williams and the MPSC intend to discuss timing and procedures in relation to the completion and approval of a new status agreement during the next round of talks in December.

The Secretary will appreciate the District Legislature's keeping him informed as to its views on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley S. Carpenter  
Director of Territorial Affairs

Mr. Santiago B. Magofna  
Legislative Secretary  
Fourth Mariana Islands  
District Legislature  
P. O. Box 929  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950



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