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February 26, 1974

Mr. Oris Russel  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of External Affairs  
Nassau, N. P.  
Bahamas

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Mr. Hartley Saunders of the Embassy of the Bahamas has suggested that I write to you.

This law firm represents the Marianas Political Status Commission in its negotiations with the United States government concerning a new political status for the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In connection with these negotiations we are exploring the sort of governmental planning effort which will be required before the new government of the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands comes into effect. The experience of the Bahamas in preparing for independence may be a highly relevant analogy which would assist the Commission in its work. Accordingly, it would be very helpful to discuss with an appropriate official of your government the planning work which was done by or for the Bahamas before independence was achieved.

It happens that I will be vacationing in Nassau from March 7 through March 14. If an appointment with an appropriate official of your government could be arranged during that time, I would be most appreciative. I can be contacted at the address or telephone above or, if it is more convenient, a message could be left for me at the Holiday Inn on Paradise Island.

Mr. Oris Russel

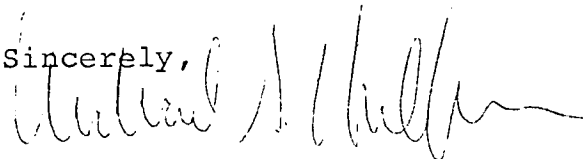
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February 26, 1974

There are enclosed for your information copies of the Joint Communiques issued by the Marianas Political Status Commission and The President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations at the conclusion of the last two rounds of discussions.

I am terribly sorry to seek an appointment with so little notice, and I deeply appreciate your efforts to accommodate my request.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Helfer

cc: Mr. Hartley Saunders,  
w/o enclosures

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