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Senator Edward DLG Pangelinan  
Chairman  
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Dear Ed:

I had a meeting scheduled yesterday with Congressman Ruppe, a Republican on the House Subcommittee on Territories and Insular Affairs. As often happens, Congressman Ruppe was in a committee meeting and asked that I see one of his assistants, a young lawyer named Mr. Bruce Cohen. I visited with Mr. Cohen for approximately 30 minutes.

Although Mr. Cohen had reviewed the status report which I had sent the Congressman, I reviewed briefly the present status of the negotiations. I emphasized our desire to keep the Members of Congress informed and touched on some of the important issues remaining to be resolved. Mr. Cohen asked several good questions and I felt that he was reasonably responsive to our interests. Since he is a very new member of the Congressman's staff, however, I do not anticipate that he has very much influence with the Congressman. By the time our Status Agreement reaches Congress, however, he may be both a more experienced and more helpful contact. I told him that I had met with several other members of the Subcommittee or their staffs and I encouraged him to talk to Tom Dunmire generally about the negotiations.

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I asked him to inform the Congressman regarding our conversation and stressed my availability to answer any questions which the Congressman or Mr. Cohen might have in the future regarding the negotiations. I said that I would be sending a comparable status report to them after the next session of negotiations and expressed my opinion that at least two more sessions would be required before a formal Status Agreement is sent to the Hill for approval.

I am nearing the end of this round of conversations with Members of Congress. I have a meeting today with Congresswoman Mink and next week with Congresswoman Burke. I also received an invitation from Congressman Meeds to schedule an appointment with him in the near future.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

*bc: Mr. Helge*