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RTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON

NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL

March 29, 1974

Dear Bill:

On February 8 I addressed a letter to you asking for a Department of Defense contribution to Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams' requirement for a \$45,000 interagency fund to support the "Ad Hoc Committee on Transition." This committee has been established in connection with the ongoing commonwealth status negotiations with the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

x-0769 By letter dated March 19 you were kind enough to advise me that the Department of Defense would provide \$15,000 for the support of this important effort. The Department of the Interior had earlier agreed to contribute \$15,000.

I am extremely grateful for your prompt consideration of this important matter, and your willingness to help out. The latter of course only reflects a very generous ongoing record of Defense support for Ambassador Williams' negotiating effort for which all of us are most appreciative.

We are still \$15,000 short of the total amount requested by Ambassador Williams. Unfortunately, State's present budgetary position is

The Honorable William P. Clements, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Defense.

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such that there is no possibility of a matching State contribution this fiscal year. I do understand that the \$30,000 contributed by your Department and Interior will be adequate for the next several months. In the circumstances, I am asking State to review its budgetary position and the possibility of a matching \$15,000 contribution very early in the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

Sincerely

Kenneth Rush Chairman