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January 13, 1978

~~Mr. Don Oberdorfer~~
~~The Washington Post~~
Asahi Building
6-7 Ginza 6-Chome
Chuo-Ku,
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Don:

I tried to call you at the last moment to get you down to Saipan before the last session ended. In my judgment, the December session resulted in resolution of all outstanding issues and the story is now in the public domain.

The February 3 date looks very firm and I expect that the session will not take more than 4 or 5 working days. Our job will be to complete the technical review of the covenant and the accompanying technical agreement regarding land and the joint negotiating history. This should culminate in a signing ceremony and, in anticipation of this event, I understand that the United States is currently preparing printed copies of the covenant.

I think that you definitely should be in Saipan for the week of February 3. I am enclosing more authoritative copies of the joint communique and draft covenant issued at the end of the last session. You should throw the other materials away. We will be preparing an explanatory memorandum regarding the covenant which may help put its overly legalistic provisions into some useful context. You might be interested in same.

Hope to see you soon.

Best personal regards,

Very sincerely,

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