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March 13, 1975

Thomas Susman, Esq.
Counsel, Senate Subcommittee on
Administrative Practices and
Procedures
Suite 3214, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom:

I appreciate the time you took to chat with me today concerning the Marianas.

Regardless of how Senator Kennedy decides to vote on Senator Hart's amendment, I hope that he will make clear for the record, assuming it is so, that his vote is not intended to pre-judge his consideration of the Covenant itself. It might also be appropriate for Senator Kennedy to note that the question whether the United States will build a base on Tinian is an issue which is separate from, and requires separate consideration from, the question whether the United States will accede to the request of the people of the Northern Marianas for commonwealth status and U.S. citizenship.

You might be interested in the attached copy of the recent release from the Micronesian News Service, concerning the support of the Tinian Municipal Council for the Marianas Political Status Commission and for the plebiscite.

I am, of course, available to provide whatever information we have which may be helpful to you or to the Senator regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Helfer

Enclosure

bcc: Howard P. Willens

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