

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building
Room 361
Washington, D.C. 20506

March 14, 1975

Honorable Vicente N. Santos
President, Fourth Mariana Islands District
Legislature
P.O. Box 929
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear President Santos:

Your transmittal of Resolution No. 76-1975, entitled:

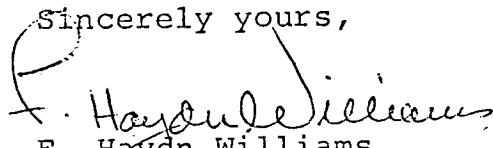
"A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAN EXERCISE THEIR SOVEREIGN AND INALIENABLE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN A PLEBISCITE",

adopted by the Fourth Mariana Islands District Legislature was received by my office March 3, 1975.

The unanimous approval of the Covenant by the membership of the legislature during its Fifth Regular Session is the historic second step toward final approval of the new commonwealth status. I would again like to commend the legislature for its expeditious action in support of the commonwealth status negotiations and the work of the Marianas Political Status Commission.

You and the legislature have my continuing best wishes for your efforts.

Sincerely yours,


F. Haydn Williams
U.S. Ambassador

The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

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FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE
P.O. Box 929
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

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3	✓
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*Prepare reply
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February 25, 1975

The Hon. Franklin Haydn Williams
Office for Micronesia Status Negotiation
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Ambassador Williams:

This is to transmit, for your use and information a copy
of Resolution No. 76-1975 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COVENANT TO
ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SO THAT THE
PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAN
EXERCISE THEIR SOVEREIGN AND INALIENABLE
RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN A PLEBISCITE"

This Resolution was adopted unanimously by all 16 members of
the Mariana Islands District Legislature during its regular
session and after full explanation and thorough consideration
of the provisions of the Covenant for the Establishment of the
Commonwealth Government in the Northern Mariana Islands. It
is our sincere hope that all concerned will accord this measure
its due consideration.

If you have any question concerning this Resolution No. 76-1975,
I'll be pleased to answer them for you.

Sincerely yours,

Santiago B. Magofna
Santiago B. Magofna
Legislative Secretary

Enclosure

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FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 76-1975

FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

FIFTH REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 76-1975
INTRODUCED BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAN EXERCISE THEIR SOVEREIGN AND INALIENABLE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN A PLEBISCITE

WHEREAS, in May 1972 the Mariana Islands District Legislature created the Marianas Political Status Commission, which consists of representatives of all of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the desires of the people, the Mariana Islands District Legislature instructed the Marianas Political Status Commission to negotiate with the United States concerning the terms of a close and enduring political relationship between the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, the Marianas Political Status Commission has conducted studies, has consulted with and made reports to the Mariana Islands District Legislature, and has negotiated for more than two years with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Marianas Political Status Commission has approved and has presented to the Mariana Islands District Legislature the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America and related documents; and

WHEREAS, the District Legislature has carefully reviewed the Covenant and the Technical Agreement Regarding the Use of Land to Be Leased by the United States in the Northern Mariana Islands, and the other materials

submitted in the February, 1975 Report of the Marianas Political Status Commission; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Mariana Islands have and must be given the opportunity to exercise their sovereign and inalienable right of self-determination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fourth Mariana Islands District Legislature, that the Marianas Political Status Commission has properly performed its function of negotiating a close and enduring political relationship with the United States of America; and

THAT, only the people of the Northern Mariana Islands can decide whether the Covenant embodies the political relationship which they desire to achieve by the exercise of their sovereign and inalienable right of self-determination; and

THAT, the Mariana Islands District Legislature hereby approves the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America for submission to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in a plebiscite; and

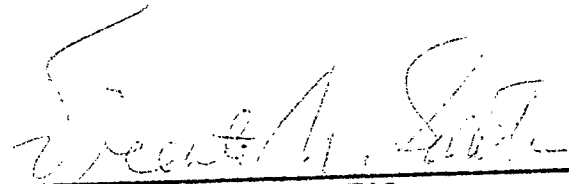
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President should certify to and the Legislative Secretary attest to the adoption hereof and thereafter transmit copies of the same to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, Members of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular affairs and of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Congress,

RES. NO. 76-1975

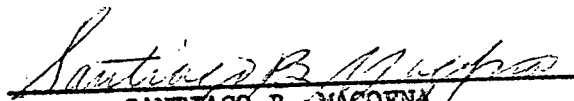
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the High Commissioner, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of the Congress of Micronesia, U. S. Ambassador Franklin Hayden Williams, the Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, and the District Administrator for the Mariana Islands District.

PASSED BY THE FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE FEBRUARY 20, 1975.



VICENTE N. SANTOS
President



SANTIAGO B. MAGOFNA
Legislative Secretary