

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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NORTHERN MARIANAS OFFICIALS MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD

Two members of the Marianas Political Status Commission met with United States President, Gerald Ford on Wednesday, March 19, 1975.

President Ford expressed the hope that the citizens of the Northern Marianas will vote in favor of commonwealth status with the United States in the plebiscite planned for June. He said that he was pleased that the people of the Northern Marianas will be able to vote on the issue.

Edward DLG Pangelinan, Chairman of the MPSC, and Senator Pedro A. Tenorio, presented a copy of the Covenant to establish a commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the President.

Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. B. Morton, and United States Deputy Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, James M. Wilson, Jr. escorted Messrs. Pangelinan and Tenorio into the President's Oval Office for the half-hour session. President Ford autographed two copies of the Covenant for his visitors. Mr. Pangelinan said he planned to attach the page autographed by the President to the official document which is kept in Saipan.

President Ford described his experiences in Micronesia while serving in the Navy during World War II. He then presented each man with a pair of cuff-links bearing the seal of the President of the United States of America.

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