

file: Plebiscite

01
5

MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION
P. O. Box 977
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

April 9, 1975

The Honorable Phillip Burton
House of Representatives
Rayburn House Building
Washington, D. C. 20240

Sir:

The members of the Marianas Political Status Commission have learned that you received a letter from Representatives Oscar C. Rasa and Jose P. Mafnas alleging that the High Commissioner had lied to you regarding involvement of his staff in the Marianas Political Education Program. The Marianas Political Status Commission is writing this letter with the hope of correcting that distorted information.

Some time ago the Marianas Political Status Commission requested the High Commissioner to provide the Commission with a technical expert for the purpose of establishing various forums for the dissemination of information and material relative to the Covenant and the activities of the Commission. Because of the lack of technical experts in this particular field, we were fortunate to receive the assistance of one expatriate employee for a short period of time, and only for the purpose mentioned above. This technical expert in no way attempted to influence the content of the Political Education Program. Prior to your discussion with High Commissioner Johnston in Washington, the Commission had indicated to him that the assistance of this individual was no longer needed as the necessary technical expertise had been explained sufficiently so that we could continue with the publications ourselves.

As you are aware, the Marianas Political Status Commission has a solemn obligation and responsibility to provide our people with all relevant information regarding the Covenant and the status negotiations. This information must be given to the people so that they can make an intelligent decision in the forthcoming plebiscite. We appreciate

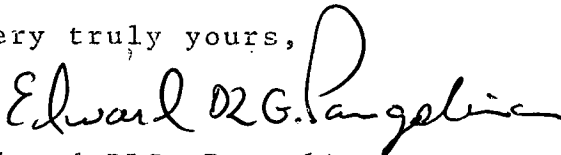
03-022947

116 01MSN, EAIANP, DOT A

The Honorable Phillip Burton
April 9, 1975
Page 2

very much your past assistance and hope that your interest and support for the welfare of the people of the Marianas will continue. You will be kept informed of all of our activities in the Marianas, and we hope that you will feel free to request any additional information regarding our activities and work relative to the Political Education Program in the Marianas.

Very truly yours,



Edward DLG. Pangelinan
Chairman

cc: High Commissioner of the
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

022948