



Department of State

1296

TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EA-10 L-02 H-02 INR-07

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S/S-O: LMATTESON

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COMTWELVE SFRAN PRIORITY
WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY
JCS/SECDEF PRIORITY
DEPT OF INTERIOR PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 099185

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, TQ
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SENATOR TENORIO
PASS TO STATUS LIAISON OFFICER BERGESEN
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

1. PLEASE DELIVER TO SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO FROM
AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS.

QUOTE:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 361
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>Hed</u>	DATE <u>MAR. 5 1987</u>
RDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE _____	
TS AUTH. _____	REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>	
DECLASSIFIED <input type="checkbox"/> RELEASABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RELEASE DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

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05-420873

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APRIL 28, 1975

SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO
MEMBER MARIANAS POLITICAL
STATUS COMMISSION
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

DEAR SENATOR TENORIO:

I AM AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY OF
THE INTERIOR TO RESPOND TO YOUR MESSAGE OF 23 APRIL, 1975
AS FOLLOWS:

THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THE MPSC
AND BY THE U.S. ON FEBRUARY 15, 1975 WILL BE SUBMITTED TO
THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WITHOUT MODIFICATION.
THE NEXT STEP IS TO GIVE THE PEOPLE THE FREE CHOICE ON
JUNE 17, 1975 TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE COMMONWEALTH COVE-
NANT AND POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES WHICH THEIR
DULY ELECTED AND APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES NEGOTIATED
PURSUANT TO THEIR MANDATE.

THE UNITED STATES REGARDS THE SIGNED COVENANT AS NOT OPEN
TO REVISION, AMENDMENT OR RENEGOTIATION. IF IT IS
APPROVED BY 55 OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS THE COVENANT
WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
IN EXACTLY THE SAME FORM AS IT IS BEING PRESENTED TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TO BE EITHER APPROVED OR
DISAPPROVED.

REPEAT, THE SIGNED COVENANT IS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND THE CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A YES OR NO VOTE IN ITS ENTIRETY
AS IT NOW STANDS. AS YOU KNOW IT IS THE RESULT OF
MORE THAN 2 YEARS OF CAREFUL STUDY AND REVIEW AND PATIENT
NEGOTIATION. THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AS
REFLECTED IN THE COVENANT WERE ARRIVED AT ONLY AFTER
CAREFUL CONSULTATION WITHIN AND BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND
LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND
ONLY AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE VIEWS OF THE MPSC
AND THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA

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ISLANDS. THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT REPRESENTS THE MAXIMUM ACCOMMODATION THE UNITED STATES CAN MAKE IN ITS EFFORT TO SATISFY THE EXPRESSED DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT IN A CLOSE AND ENDURING POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S.. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESULT IN AN OFFER OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS MORE FAVORABLE TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS THAN THAT CONTAINED IN THE SIGNED COVENANT.

IF THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT IS REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE IN THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE THE UNITED STATES EXPECTS THAT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WILL REMAIN A PART OF MICRONESIA AND THAT THEY WILL SEEK AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE TTPI. IF THE MARIANAS PEOPLE PREFER A COMMON FUTURE WITH THE OTHER DISTRICTS THE UNITED STATES WILL RESPECT THESE WISHES AND WILL PROCEED ACCORDINGLY AS IT MOVES TOWARD THE

TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT.

THE QUESTIONS FOR WHICH YOU HAVE REQUESTED ANSWERS WERE THOROUGHLY COVERED DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. DETAILED ANSWERS ARE, HOWEVER, IN PREPARATION AND WILL BE FORWARDED SOONEST. I HOPE THAT THE EXPLANATION WILL PROVIDE AN AUTHORITATIVE BASIS FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES RAISED BY YOUR MESSAGE.

SINCERELY YOURS,

F. HAYDN WILLIAMS
U.S. AMBASSADOR
MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

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END QUOTE.

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