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Senators Barton & Jackson

Dear Mr. ~~Speaker~~:

On numerous occasions over the past twenty years the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, a part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, administered by the United States under a United Nations Trusteeship Agreement since 1947, have sought a close and permanent association with the United States. During the past two and a half years negotiations have been held on Saipan to that end.

On February 15, 1975, the negotiations were concluded with the signing by the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, and the Marianas Political Status Commission of a Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. This Covenant which defines a prospective Commonwealth relationship with the United States under American sovereignty, calls for the holding of a plebiscite to give the people of the Northern Mariana Islands the opportunity to vote on the Covenant.

Under terms of a Proclamation issued by the Secretary of the Interior, a copy of which is attached hereto, a plebiscite will be held on June 17, 1975. The Proclamation stated that observers from the United Nations and from the Congress of the United States would be welcome to witness the plebiscite and any of the preliminary activities that might interest them.

-2-

I hereby extend a most cordial invitation to you to
appoint representatives of the House to witness this
historic act of self-determination.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Secretary of
the Interior

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