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Rec'd 6/16 01/65

American Civil Liberties Union

Guam national chapter

I visited him
in Guam 7/24,
young fellow -
died in 1949
for a year
when his parents
were civil servants.

ft
Cardenas

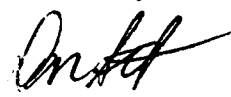
Mr. Alf Bergesen
Status LNO
TTPI Headquarters
Saipan, M.I. 96950

Dear Mr. Bergesen:

Thanks again for your telephone call this afternoon. While we understand your concern over adverse publicity on the coming Marianas plebiscite, we must stand on our previous statement objecting to the election.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to us from our headquarters. As you can see, the ACLU is not altogether uninformed on the proceedings both within the islands and the United Nations.

Next time you're in Guam, drop in and say hello. Our office is room 506, GCIC Building, Agana.

Sincerely,

Donald Seth
President

01
6/5/75

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

22 East 40th Street New York, N.Y. 10016 (212) 725-1222

May 28, 1975

Mr. Don Seth, President
American Civil Liberties Union
Guam National Chapter
P. O. Box 1891
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Mr. Seth:

Mr. Wulf and I have considered your letter of May 13th on the Mariana covenant which you kindly enclosed. We have been concerned with this problem for a long time through our representative at the United Nations, Professor James Gutmann of Columbia. He has visited the Islands, and has made several reports to us along the lines of your comment.

There are clearly civil liberties issues among the points you cite, which are in accordance with our general policy of backing not only self-determination but fair elections and the right of native peoples to their land.

In view of the fact that the Trustship Council is now meeting here we better handle this directly at the United Nations through our association with the International League for the Rights of Man, and directly with the U.S. Mission to the United Nations through the ACLU. It is a dual approach because the U.S. is the administering authority.

We see no reason that you cannot express the same views. We will keep you advised of our action here with copies of official communications. You can rest assured that the United Nations will not permit the break-up of the trust territory, even without a court test.

Obviously the major civil liberties points are: (1) the lack of any popular referendum on a future separate political status; (2) at the election held in June a fair expression of the people informed in their own vernacular, and a correct description of the covenant; (3) an uncoerced vote without interference by the U.S. representatives; (4) U.S. control of land for

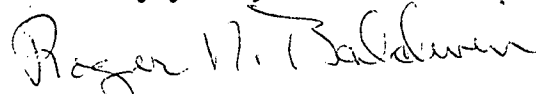
Edward J. Ennis, Chairman, Board of Directors • Ramsey Clark, Chairman, National Advisory Council
Aryeh Neier, Executive Director Executive Department: Alan Reitman, Associate Director • Roger N.
Baldwin, Executive Director Emeritus and International Work Advisor • Trudy Hayden, Carol Jennings,
Philip Ryan: Staff Associates

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military purposes made clear in the preparations for the vote, as well as the wording of the ballot, if items are set forth.

Mr. Wulf joins me in this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Roger N. Baldwin
International Work Advisor



Melvin Wulf
Legal Director

cc: Professor James Gutmann
Roberta Cohen, International League for the Rights of Man
David Fishlow

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