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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building  
Room 361

Washington, D.C. 20506

June 17, 1975

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

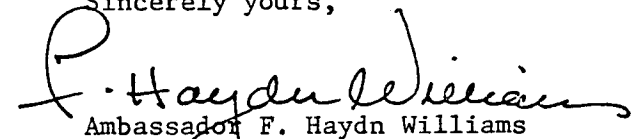
Today, June 17, 1975, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands voted in a plebiscite to approve the Commonwealth status as set forth in the "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America" which you instructed me to negotiate on behalf of our government. I am happy to report that preliminary results of the voting indicate that the Covenant was approved by over 75% of those participating in the plebiscite.

This plebiscite represents the capstone to more than twenty years of local efforts to become a permanent part of the United States and meets our obligations to promote self-determination under the terms of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement. The plebiscite also clears the way for presentation of the Covenant to the Congress for its approval.

I would now like to respectfully request that the Covenant be submitted to the Congress as speedily as possible in order to accommodate what I understand to be the desires of the Congress to act on the Covenant before its August recess and also in order to minimize the time during which the Marianas will remain administratively a part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Enclosed with this letter are a proposed public statement for you to issue on the results of the plebiscite, a draft letter from you to the Congress transmitting the Covenant, and a draft Joint Congressional Resolution approving the Covenant. These documents are submitted for your consideration with the thought that upon your approval they could be put into final form and dispatched to the Congress as soon as the results of the plebiscite have been certified by the Plebiscite Commissioner, Mr. Erwin D. Canham. I remain

Sincerely yours,

  
Ambassador F. Haydn Williams  
The President's Personal Representative  
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

Enclosures

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