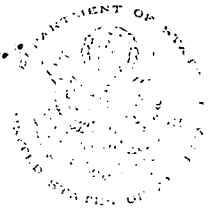


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TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

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SECTION 01 OF 02
FROM STATUS LND 194
PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA AND OMSN FOR ACTION
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV TO
SUBJECT: STATEMENT FOR MARIANAS COVENANT HEARING

1. SEN. BORJA HAS ASKED THAT FOLLOWING LETTER AND STATEMENT
BE PASSED ASAP TO CHAIRMAN PHILLIP BURTON AND TO MPSC DELEGATION.
2. LETTER, BEGIN TEXT

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BURTON:
I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH APPRECIATION YOUR KIND AND THOUGHTFUL
INVITATION TO ATTEND THE JULY 14, 1975 HEARINGS OF YOUR SUBCOMMI-
TTEE ON TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED
COVENANT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS.
IT IS THEREFORE WITH REGRET THAT I MUST INFORM YOU THAT CIRCUM-

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STANCES WILL NOT PERMIT MY APPEARANCE ON THIS HISTORIC OCCASION.
HOWEVER, I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF TRANSMITTING A COPY OF MXT
PREPARED REMARKS, WHICH I REQUEST THAT MR. JOSE R. CRUZ READ, OR
IF NOT POSSIBLE, INSERT INTO THE RECORD ON MY BEHALF.
I DO, HOWEVER, PLAN TO VISIT WASHINGTON D.C. NEAR THE END OF
JULY ON OTHER CONGRESSIONAL MATTERS, AND HOPE THAT TIME WILL
PERMIT ME TO PAY A COURTESY CALL TO YOUR OFFICE AND TO TESTIFY
IN THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS.
WARMEST MAFA ADAI.
(SIGNED) SENATOR T. BORJA END TEXT
STATEMENT, BEGIN TEXT

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THIS DISTINGUISHED SUBCOMMITTEE:
MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN MY COLLEAGUES FROM THE
MARIANAS LEADERSHIP IN BRINGING YOU THE BEST WISHES AND GREETINGS
OF THE PEOPLE OF OUR DISTRICT, AND MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR
HAVING BEEN INVITED TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF THE PROPOSED COVENANT
TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

AS THE SENIOR SENATOR OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, A MEMBER
OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SINCE ITS CREATION OVER TEN YEARS
AGO, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT

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FAVORABLY THE COVENANT AS RATIFIED BY MY PEOPLE ON JUNE 17, 1975
DURING AN OFFICIAL PLEBISCITE SUPERVISED BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTA-
TIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND WITNESSED BY
OFFICIAL OBSERVERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL.

IN CONVEYING THE STONG DLWAUFNB OF THE COVENANT BY MY
CONSTITUENTS IT IS PERHAPS APPROPRIATE TO BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THE
BACKGROUND OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS WHICH
CULMINATED IN THE JUNE PLEBISCITE, AND WHICH NOW AWAIT, LIKE OUR
CITIZENS, YOUR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.

AS HAS BEEN INDICATED BEFORE AT OTHER FORUMS, THE PEOPLE OF THE
MARIANAS HAVE DESIRED TO BECOME A PART OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL
FAMILY FOR OVER TWO DECADES. THE REASON FOR THIS DESIRE IS A
SIMPLE ONE. IT RESULTS FROM THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE WITNESSED
AND PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL BY FOUR
DIFFERENT WORLD POWERS OVER THE PAST FOUR CENTURIES. IT IS THEIR
FERVENT AND DEEPLY HELD BELIEF THAT OF THE FOUR DIFFERENT NATIONS
WHICH HAVE RULED THE MARIANAS, THAT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA HAS WON THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS, BECAUSE OF THE DEMOCRA-
TIC IDEALS AND FREEDOM WHICH IT REPRESENTS ANE STANDS FOR IN PRINCI-
PLE AND PRACTICES IN FACT.

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THEREFORE, NOT ONLY MUST WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE
MARIANAS HAVE REPEATEDLY REQUESTED THIS FORM OF STATUS AS EVIDENCED
BY NUMEROUS DOCUMENTS UJB PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, LETTERS, AND REFERENDUMS,

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AND FURTHER SHOWN BY THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, BUT WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT MY PEOPLE VIEW A PERMANENT ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT, WITH AFFECTION, AND WITH ADMIRATION. THESE FEELINGS HAVE BEEN MANIFESTED IN MANY WAYS. FOR ONE, BECAUSE OF OUR STRONG DESIRE TO BECOME ATTACHED TO THE UNITED STATES, IN THE 1960'S A POLITICAL PARTY WAS BORN IN THE MARIANAS. A MAJOR PLANK AND PHILOSOPHY OF THIS PARTY WAS THAT THE MARIANAS SHOULD BECOME A PART OF THE UNITED STATES.

LATER, IN 1970, WHEN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAD REJECTED THE OFFER OF A COMMONWEALTH STATUS FOR ALL OF MICRONESIA, I MADE A SPEECH IN THE SENATE OF THE CONGRESS WHICH SPOKE FOR OUR FEELINGS AT THAT TIME.

"I FEAR THAT FOR THIS CONGRESS TO REJECT THE UNITED STATES' PROPOSAL FOR A COMMONWEALTH STATUS AS UNACCEPTABLE WILL FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR SCRUTINIZING THE MERITS OF SUCH A PROPOSAL. WE IN THE MARIANAS COMMUNITY DO NOT FIND THE COMMONWEALTH PROPOSAL

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ALTOGETHER UNACCEPTABLE. WE ARE SOMEWHAT FLATTERED BY THIS INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN MICRONESIA, AND PERHAPS A LITTLE EMBARRASSED. WE ARE NOT QUITE SURE MICRONESIA ENTIRELY DESERVES IT."

SINCE THAT TIME, THE BASIC GOALS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE NOT CHANGED, AND NEITHER HAS THE SENTIMENT THAT WE ARE SOMEWHAT FLATTERED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS CONVINCED ENOUGH OF OUR SINCERITY TO AGREE TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND IN THIS HEARING TODAY.

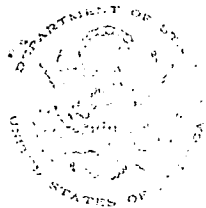
IN SIMILAR FASHION, WE FIND THE COVENANT BEFORE YOU NOT "ALTOGETHER UNACCEPTABLE," AND IN FACT, WE FIND IT FOR THE MOST PART QUITE ACCEPTABLE REPRESENTING NOT ONLY THE CULMINATION OF TWO DECADES OF EFFORTS BUT ALSO TWO YEARS OF CONCENTRATED NEGOTIATIONS.

WE ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT NO INSTRUMENT OR DOCUMENT IS EITHER PERFECT, OR ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES, SINCE THE VERY PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION INVOLVES COMPROMISE, AND COMPROMISE INEVITABLY MEANS THAT BOTH SIDES GET MOST, BUT NOT ALL, THEY WANT.

IN THIS CONNECTION THEREFORE, IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE AND BOTH HOUSES OF THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL CONSIDER APPROVING THIS AS A BASIC AGREEMENT, WHICH PROVIDES THE MECHANICS OF LATER

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MUTUALLY-APPROVED REVISIONS

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RELATED TO THIS, SOME VOICES HAVE RAISED CONCERN OVER THE INTENTIONS AND MOTIVATIONS UNDERLYING APPROVAL OF THE COVENANT AND

THE ACQUISITION OF NEW CITIZENS AND TERRITORY IN THIS MODERN-DAY, POST COLONIAL PERIOD.

AT THE RISK OF BEING REDUNDANT, THE MOTIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS ARE PLAIN: THEY CHOOSE TO SEEK FREEDOM, FREEDOM FROM THE INVOLUNTARY DEATH, DESTRUCTION, AND SUFFERING VISITED UPON THEM FOR CENTURIES. WE DO SO, BASED ON THE HUMANITARIAN AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES WITH WHICH AMERICA HAS TUTORED US AND OUR CHILDREN OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES, AND IN WHICH WE BELIEVE.

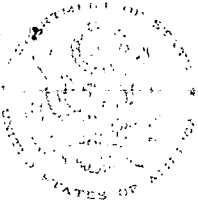
WE DO SO NOT BECAUSE WE KNOW AMERICA IS A RICH AND POWERFUL NATION BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE RICH AND POWERFUL, TOO. THERE ARE MANY RICH AND POWERFUL NATIONS IN THE WORLD TODAY, AND IF THAT WERE THE ONLY CRITERION, THEN OUR PEOPLE COULD CHOOSE AMONG SEVERAL NATIONS.

LIKewise, AS YOU MUST BELIEVE IN THE SINCERITY OF OUR MOTIVATIONS, WE MUST BELIEVE IN THOSE OF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA REPRESENTED BY THEIR GOVERNMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRIMARY AND PRINCIPAL REASON THAT THE UNITED STATES WISHES US TO BECOME A PART OF ITS POLITICAL

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TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC

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FAMILY IS DUE TO THEIR RECOGNITION OF OUR LONG ASSOCIATION, OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, AND YET OUR BELIEF IN THE FREELY EXPRESSED WILL OF THE PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN DESTINY, JUST AS AMERICA DID NEARLY 200 YEARS AGO.

OF COURSE, WE RECOGNIZE THE STRATEGIC AND SECURITY ASPECTS OF AN ENLARGED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC, BUT WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT IF WE ARE TO BECOME A PART OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL FAMILY, WE MUST SHARE BOTH THE BENEFITS OF THE PROTECTION OF THE U.S. AND ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS WHICH ARE INHERENT TO THOSE BENEFITS. WE ARE, IN SHORT, READY TO SACRIFICE WHAT WE MUST NOT ONLY FOR OUR OWN SECURITY, BUT FOR THAT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD SECURITY.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SECURITY OR MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS OR NEEDS SHOULD BE THE BASIS OF CONTENTION FOR THE COVENANT, FOR WHILE THEY ARE INHERENT, THEY ARE ALSO SECONDARY.

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INDICATED BY THE NATURE OF THE COVENANT, AND THE OPTIONS CONTAINED THEREIN.

WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. GLOBAL MILITARY STRATEGY, AND WE HAVE NO IDEA OF OUR IMPORTANCE IN SUCH, BUT WE DO KNOW AND DO BELIEVE THAT JUST AS MILITARY INTERESTS SHOULD NOT BE THE PRIMARY REASON FOR ENTERING INTO THIS COVENANT, THEY SHOULD ALSO NOT BE THE PRIMARY REASON FOR OPPOSING IT.

WHAT WE HAVE BEFORE US TODAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF A DOCUMENT, OR A PIECE OF PAPER, BUT A SIGN OF AFFIRMATION, A POSITIVE OUEZPYBLIGNBVE#ACT TO CONSUMATE WITH FINALITY THE LONG, CLOSE, AND POLITICAL FAMILY TIES BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS

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AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

OUR ROAD HAS BEEN A LONG ONE, AND WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THE HELP FROM THE UNITED STATES IN TRAVELING THIS ROAD. OUR WORK AND EFFORTS TO THIS DATE HAVE BEEN WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. WHILE IMPORTANT, THIS WORK HAS BEEN IN A SENSE PRELIMINARY IN NATURE AND INCOMPLETE. FOR NOW, WE FACE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, AND IT IS YOU, MEMBERS OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE, AND OF THIS CONGRESS WHO MUST EXERCISE LEGISLATIVE PEROGATIVE IN MAKING THE FINAL AND MOST

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IMPORTANT ACT OF AFFIRMATION AND APPROVAL TO THIS IMPORTANT AND HISTORICAL DOCUMENT, WHICH OUR PEOPLE WANT AND FOR WHICH THEY ARE AFFECTIONATELY WAITING YOUR APPROVAL.

IT IS THEREFORE INCONCEIVABLE TO US THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD RETRACT THEIR OFFER OF OUR BECOMING A PART OF THEIR POLITICAL FAMILY AND REJECT THE LONG-HELD DEFERRED DREAM AND ASPIRATIONS OF MY PEOPLE. SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE CONTRARY NOT ONLY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, BUT ALSO THE BASIC PRECEPTS OF THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS.

IT WOULD ALSO BE CONTRARY TO THE REPUTATION OF THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF HUMANITARIAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE CONSUMATION OF OUR DESIRES AS CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD BE A MOST TIMELY AND FITTING EVENT AS THE UNITED STATES CELEBRATES 200 YEARS AS A FREE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IN 1976.

WE THEREFORE HOPE AND FERVENTLY PRAY THAT THE ANSWER OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE "YES", AND THAT WE MAY SOON BEGIN TO LIVE THAT DREAM SO LONG DEFERRED, AND FOR WHICH OUR PEOPLE NOW EAGERLY AWAIT YOUR FAVORABLE ACTION.

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU ON THIS IMPORTANT AND HISTORIC OCCASION. END TEXT
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