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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

COPIES TO:
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RF (jhw)

ATTENTION: *Keep this study together.*

July 16, 1975

Dear Mr. ~~Canham~~: *Spike -*

On behalf of the Department of State, I wish to express our warmest congratulations and deep appreciation for your superb contribution to the June 17 plebiscite in the Northern Marianas. The obligations which the United States has as Administering Authority under the Trusteeship Agreement made it imperative that efforts be made to ensure the impartial conduct of the political education program, plebiscite campaign, and the plebiscite itself. A concerted effort was made to find a person with sterling credentials to handle the critically important responsibilities of the Plebiscite Commissioner. It was indeed fortunate that you were available to perform this mission.

The United Nations Special Visiting Mission which observed the plebiscite has emphasized to us informally how impressed they were with you and with the manner in which the plebiscite was conducted. Their report to the United Nations will be drafted shortly and we expect it to come up for review at the next session of the Trusteeship Council, May - June 1976. We expect the report to record and approve the plebiscite as a legitimate act of self-determination.

Your contribution to the demonstrably impartial conduct of the plebiscite has been immeasurable. Please accept our thanks.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Ingersoll
Acting Secretary

Mr. Erwin D. Canham
242 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

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BY S/S-I

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION MEMORANDUM

W. B. Buffum

16 JUL 1975

TO: The Acting Secretary
FROM: William B. Buffum *W-B*

Letter to Erwin D. Canham

Mr. Canham has completed a very fine job as Plebiscite Commissioner for the Marianas Plebiscite held June 17. (The plebiscite resulted in a 73% vote in favor of commonwealth. The Commonwealth Covenant must now receive US Congressional approval. It is presently being reviewed in the House.)

President Ford, Interior Secretary Hathaway, and Ambassador F. Haydn Williams have sent letters of appreciation and I think it would be appropriate for the State Department to similarly express its appreciation.

Recommendation:

That you sign the attached letter to Mr. Canham.

Attachment:

Letter to Mr. Canham

IO/UNP: MWilliamson: *W* jps
7/16/75: ext. 20512

Concurrence:
EA/ANP: JKnowles *W*

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