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September 11, 1975

Howard P. Willens, Esq.
Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering
1666 K Street NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Howard,

I have been meaning for some months to send you a copy of the enclosed letter of April 23, 1975, which was sent to the US Government via Ambassador Stevenson at the close of the Geneva conference on the Law of the Sea.

The letter maintains the stance to which we have held, that is, that for the time being, the interests of all of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory must be treated equally and in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement, and that the future separate destiny of the Marianas does not in any way diminish from their present rights or interests. As you will see, the letter seeks to preserve the property rights of the Micronesians in the maritime spaces that the Law of the Sea will soon confirm in them. The current draft of the LOS Treaty specifically provides that the resource rights of the maritime zones of trust territories (as well as other dependent or non-fully-sovereign areas) belong to the inhabitants of those zones, and must be exercised by them, and not the mother or metropolitan country. Thus, assuming the treaty is concluded before the trusteeship ends, or the law becomes by custom or general unilateral legislation that spelled out in the current treaty draft, the people of the Marianas will, under our view, have the same rights to the sea resources as all other inhabitants of Micronesia. While it has seemed to me that some of the Marianas people are not fully aware of the size of their stake in these propositions, you will see from the letter that we have tried to protect that stake, since we do not see it as appropriate for the Congress or anyone acting for the Congress to make any differentiation on this score.

I'd be very glad to discuss it with you or with anyone else, if you have any questions or ideas. There has been no answer to the letter, and I assume the addressee is hoping that it will all go away. It won't.

Yours,
Fred
Frederick S. Wyle

cc : P.C. Warnke, Esq.
F.L. Ramp, Esq.

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