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November 26, 1975

Senator Pedro A. Tenorio
P. O. Box 42
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Pete:

On Thursday, November 20, after we had all left Capitol Hill, Senator Sparkman, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and a supporter of the Covenant, obtained Senate approval for an extension of the deadline for the Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees to issue their reports on H.J. Res. 549 from December 3, 1975 to January 27, 1976. It appears that Senator Jackson of the Interior Committee was not consulted by Senator Sparkman. However, we have been informed that Senator Jackson will not now object to the delay -- primarily because the extension is supported by Senator Mansfield, the Majority Leader and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

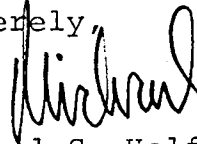
Thus the reports of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees need not be made until January 27, 1976, and the Covenant will not be considered by the Senate until at least that date. It is possible, according to Jim Bierne, that Senator Jackson may be able to gain agreement to bring up H.J. Res. 549 immediately after these two committees issue their reports. We will be in touch with you if we can confirm this. In the interim, we will continue our efforts on behalf of the Commission to secure approval of the Covenant by the Senate and to coordinate with the Administration on its efforts to defeat or modify the Percy amendment.

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I have told Terry Fortune that the prospect of considerable delay in the Senate, together with the possibility of an extended period of separate administration due to the Percy amendment, means that the report of our own discussions with the COM must be carefully written to reflect the assumptions on which we all proceeded. We agreed to meet after Thanksgiving to discuss this matter.

I wish the news were better, Pete, but delay is a long way from defeat. Best regards to you, the other Commission members and your families for the holiday season.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Helfer

cc: Edward DLG Pangelinan
Daniel Muna
Manuel Sablan

bcc: Howard P. Willens

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