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December 29, 1976

Mr. Wes K. Sasaki  
Deputy Division Chief  
Natural Resources Division  
Office of Management and Budget  
New Executive Office Building  
Room 8208  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Sasaki:

I am enclosing a copy of the Constitution approved by the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention on December 6, 1976, and a copy of the section-by-section analysis of that Constitution also approved by the Convention. It is likely that the Resident Commissioner will set a date in early March for the referendum with respect to the Constitution and the Convention delegates expect approval by a large margin.

I am also enclosing a copy of the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. Section 202 of the Covenant provides that after ratification by the people of the Northern Marianas the Constitution will be submitted to the United States Government for approval. The Covenant limits the time available for this review to six months and limits the substance of the review to an examination of whether the Constitution is consistent with the Covenant and the applicable provisions of the United States Constitution, treaties and laws. The Constitution will take effect on a date proclaimed by the President of the United States not later than 180 days United States approval of the document.

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Mr. Wes K. Sasaki

December 29, 1976

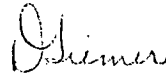
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On December 17, 1976, shortly after we returned from the Marianas, we met with James Berg, Brewster Chapman and James Scott from the Department of Interior and Herman Marcuse from the Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice to review the Constitution and discuss the approval process. They have been provided with copies of the documents we are sending to you.

It is important that the review by the Executive Branch begin as soon as possible and that it be coordinated from the outset so that there is no unnecessary delay in securing approval by the United States after notice is received from the Resident Commissioner with respect to ratification.

Most of the questions with respect to the intent or scope of the Constitutional provisions are answered by the section-by-section analysis. We are available to provide additional information if that is required.

Sincerely,



Deanne C. Siemer

Enclosures

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