

It is also of the greatest political importance to move immediately to implement the agreement reached during the course of the negotiations on the transition of the Marianas toward self-government and their new Commonwealth status. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that the \$1.5 million already authorized by the Senate be ready, to enable the Northern Marianas to begin an orderly transition as soon as the Congress approves the Covenant. Any delay at all in permitting the Northern Marianas to begin this process will be greatly resented and will certainly raise the risk of ill will and unrest in the Northern Marianas in view of the understanding already entered into and the authorizing action of the Senate a year ago.

I would therefore appreciate anything the Interior Department can do to make sure that as soon as the Commonwealth Covenant is approved by the Congress, funds will be available to cover the immediate costs related to transition and separate administration of the Northern Marianas from the remainder of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Sincerely yours,



Ambassador F. Haydn Williams  
The President's Personal Representative  
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

FHW:kkc