

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building  
Room 373  
Washington, D.C. 20506

March 1, 1976

Joseph C. Murphy  
Editor, Pacific Daily News  
P.O. Box DN  
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Joe:

I appreciate the kind and generous references to my efforts on behalf of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Covenant Bill which appeared in Pipe Dreams recently but proper credit should go to those from the Northern Marianas who worked so hard and so effectively for Congressional approval of this historic legislation.

Last July, again in October, and in January and February of this year, important leaders from the Northern Marianas representing the three major islands, the two political parties, the Marianas delegation to the Congress of Micronesia, the District Legislature, the Municipal Councils, the Carolinian Community and the District Administration traveled to Washington to testify in behalf of the Covenant and the expressed wishes of their constituents. The job with the U.S. Congress simply could not have been done without their dedication, their articulate expositions and their obvious sincerity as they testified before Committees and Sub-Committees and as they briefed individual Members of the House and Senate.

They came of their own free will and not one dime of U.S. Government money was spent to cover their costs. When here they organized and executed their own plans to make certain that everything was done that could have been done to educate the staffs and Members of the Congress on the merits of the Covenant and the need for early favorable approval. They were resourceful, tireless and persuasive--and before they were through they had covered every important office on the "Hill". In so doing they clearly earned the admiration and respect of Members of the Congress and their staffs by the careful and logical manner in which they presented their case. All of this had a great deal to

do with the outcome of the Senate vote last week as well as the earlier votes in the House and in the Senate Committees.

Those involved all deserve recognition by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands for their truly outstanding performance and I am sure that their names will be honored in the years to come as the people in the Northern Marianas remember how they overcame a spirited and determined effort on the part of a few to defeat the Covenant despite the overwhelming Plebiscite vote.

While I am writing, I should not overlook the editorial support which the Pacific Daily News gave to the Covenant. I think your editorials were timely and contributed greatly to a better understanding of the issues. As you may know they have been introduced into the Congressional Record by Members of the Congress.

I am also grateful for your confidence in me and your suggestion that I might be named to discuss on behalf of the Federal Government, Guam's future political status. While I have great affection for Guam, I believe the matter is one which should be handled by the Interior Department for the Executive Branch of the Federal Government and I recommended some time ago that the Office of Territorial Affairs be given this responsibility.

Again, my thanks and I close with the hope that those from the Northern Marianas who fought so hard for Congressional approval of the Covenant will be given their rightful recognition which they so richly deserve. For the record I am listing their names below.

Sincerely yours,



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

FHW:kkc

cc:  
MPSC  
Marianas District Legislature

Those who were here for the recent Senate vote as well as for earlier Senate and House actions were:

Edward DLG. Pangelinan  
Senator Pedro A. Tenorio  
Jose R. Cruz  
Santiago Magofna  
Benjamin Manglona  
Daniel T. Muna  
Manuel A. Sablan  
Vicente N. Santos

Others who testified in earlier House and Senate hearings were:

Francisco C. Ada  
Vicente T. Camacho  
Herman Q. Guerrero  
Lorenzo I. Guerrero  
Dr. Francisco T. Palacios  
Joannes R. Taimanao  
Joaquin S. Torres