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OFFICE OF TRANSITION STUDIES AND PLANNING  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
P.O. BOX 42  
SAIPAN, AMERICAN MARIANAS 96950



Northern Mariana Islands

June 30, 1976

Howard P. Willens, Esq.  
Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering  
1666 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Willens:

This morning we received word via Juan Sablan, acting HiCom, that Washington members of the Joint Commission on Transition had approved our recommended reprogramming.

This action provides me the necessary basis for signing the contract we negotiated during your recent visit, and I am prepared to do so as soon as I receive your written confirmation regarding an event not subject to the control of either of us.

I refer to the timing of the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention. Yesterday, the Resident Commission again vetoed the second Con Con bill passed this month by the Legislature. The Legislature reconvenes early next week to decide what it should now do in light of this action; it could well pass the same bill in an attempt to override the veto, which could lead to a lengthy review in Washington. If the Secretary of the Interior sustains the ResCom's veto, this would necessitate further review and action by the Legislature. Conceivably, the Con Con might be delayed until October or November, given the time allowed for review and further action by all parties concerned.

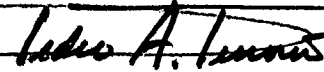
In view of these possibilities, I would appreciate it if you would let us know if further delays would affect in any substantial measure the ability or willingness of your firm to carry out the terms of our contract. As soon as I receive such assurance, I will sign the contract we agreed to during your visit. I trust that you remain prepared to work with us in this important venture and look forward to your early response.

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Howard P. Willens, Esq.  
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Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pedro A. Tenorio", is written over a horizontal line.

Pedro A. Tenorio  
Director

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