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January 7, 1977

Mr. Michael P. Malloy
Research Associate
Institute of International Law
and Economic Development
1511 K Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Malloy:

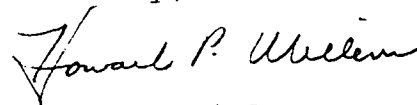
Thank you for your letter of January 4 and the enclosed materials. I will read them with interest.

I have given further consideration with my colleagues to your request for access to copies of the position papers presented during the negotiations between the United States and the Marianas Political Status Commission. I understand that you are engaged in preparing a negotiating and legislative history of the Covenant which resulted from these negotiations. Although we would like to be helpful, we do not believe that any public use of these materials could be appropriately authorized by us at this time without the approval of representatives of the Northern Marianas. To the extent that some of these materials have previously been made public, however, we would be glad to make copies available to you for your use. We are also prepared to discuss the Covenant, and the considerable legislative history already in the public domain, with you at your convenience. I hope you will understand our position with respect to your request.

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Enclosed for your information are copies of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands, signed on December 5, 1976, and the analysis of the document as approved by the Constitutional Convention.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

Enclosures