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Dear Mr. Lance:

This is in response to the request of Mr. Ronald K. Peterson dated May 6, 1977, for the views and recommendations of the Department of State concerning the proposed Constitution for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Department of State has reviewed the proposed Constitution from the perspective of its impact on the foreign relations of the United States and has no objection to its approval. We understand that the Departments of Justice and Interior have also reviewed the proposed Constitution and have determined that it is consistent with the Commonwealth Covenant (P.L. 94-241) and those provisions of the United States Constitution, treaties, and laws to be applicable in the Northern Mariana Islands. In that respect, the Department of State defers to the recommendations of those Departments that the President approve the proposed Constitution.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

The Honorable
Bert Lance, Director,
Office of Management and Budget.

cc: C - Mr. Wolf

L/UNA:DPStewart:eb 6/15/77
x20557

Clearances: L/UNA - Mr. Stowe
IO/UNP - Mr. Schiele
EA/ANP - Mr. Williams
H - Mr. ~~Schiele~~
L - Mr. Boyd

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY hlep DATE MAR. 5 1987

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