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September 16, 1977

The Honorable Bert Lance  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lance:

I am writing in response to your letter of August 17 regarding my comments on the proposed Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. I understand that a Constitution was submitted to the President in accordance with the terms of the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on April 21, 1977 and that you plan to formally declare the Constitution to be in effect by mid-September.

Due to the Congressional recess and our heavy legislative schedule, I will be unable to contact each of the members of the Committee to review the provisions of the proposed Constitution. However, the Committee staff has reviewed the document and advises me that they find no conflict between its provisions and the terms set forth in the Covenant for the United States consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Henry M. Jackson  
Chairman

NMJ:JBh