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November 8, 1977

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Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio
Director, Office of Transition
Studies and Planning
P. O. Box 9
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Pete:

In a recent letter to Eddie, I raised the question of the current state of planning in the Northern Marianas for the events scheduled to take place on January 9, 1978. Within the last week I have had some further conversation on this subject with Deanne Siemer and I would like to present the matter to you for your consideration and action.

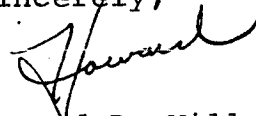
If it has not already been done, I believe it would be very useful for one or more of the interested Northern Marianas agencies to take responsibility for developing a proposal for a ceremony to take place on January 9, 1978. Representatives of the Executive Branch here believe that this is primarily a matter for Northern Marianas initiative and are waiting for some indication from you and the other leaders what your desires are with respect to marking the effective date of the Northern Marianas Constitution and the installation of your new constitutional government. Mrs. Van Cleve is available to respond to any request that is addressed to her by the Northern Marianas leadership regarding the participation in any such ceremony by high level representatives of the Executive Branch. She is assuming, however, that the Northern Marianas representatives will be developing a proposal and presenting it to the Resident Commissioner for his input and transmittal to Washington. I hope that these discussions are presently underway.

Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio
November 8, 1977
Page Two

With respect to the participation of Executive Branch officials, Mrs. Van Cleve has told me that she has alerted Secretary of Interior Andrus to the possibility that he may be invited to be in Saipan on January 9. I think it would be very desirable to have Secretary Andrus head up a small delegation to participate in this event. If you want him, however, he should probably be invited within the very near future so that the date can be reserved on his schedule. In addition, I am informed by Deanne that representatives of the White House and other executive agencies have expressed an interest in being part of any delegation to Saipan on this important occasion. In fact, Deanne is reasonably optimistic that she could be designated as a Department of Defense representative so that she could be present to participate in the culmination of something to which she contributed so much. You might also wish to consider, of course, invitations to the members of Congress who have played such an active role in the successful efforts of the Northern Marianas people to become a commonwealth.

Although this letter may be unnecessary, I did want to bring the above situation to your personal attention. If you formulate a plan for presentation to the Executive Branch through Mrs. Van Cleve, I strongly recommend that you advise me of your desires so that I can proceed independently (with Deanne's assistance) to try to avoid any disappointment of the kind that we recently experienced in connection with the approval of the Northern Marianas Constitution. If I can be of any additional help in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Howard P. Willens

cc: Mr. Pangelinan
Senator Guerrero

bc: Mr. Leonard