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MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FOR THE FILE

DATE 4/9/75

EXECUTIVE
FG1-2
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PR5-2

LETTER, MEMO, ETC.

TO: The President Canham, Erwin D.
FROM: Wm. Walker Thru: Funnfeld
SUBJECT: Rehearse Commissioners for
the Northern Marianas

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DONALD RUMSFELD
FROM: WILLIAM N. WALKER *Walker*
SUBJECT: Plebiscite Commissioner for the
Northern Marianas

Attached for your signature is a letter designating Erwin D. Canham your personal representative in conducting the forthcoming plebiscite in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. Canham is the former Editor of the Christian Science Monitor.

This letter reflects your decision of April 7, 1975, and is designed to give personal representative status to Mr. Canham. His actual appointment as Plebiscite Commissioner will be made by Secretary of Interior Morton, pursuant to his responsibility for the Administration of the Trust Territory. A similar procedure was used in the designation of Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, who conducted the negotiations on the future political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Emmet Rice, Acting Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs in the Department of Interior, Ambassador Williams, and the NSC concur in this approach and letter.

All necessary checks have been completed.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Canham:

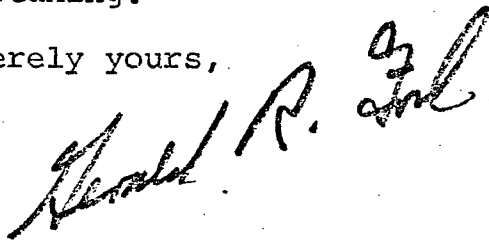
It gives me great pleasure to designate you my personal representative in conducting the forthcoming plebiscite in the Northern Mariana Islands on the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth with the United States of America. I deeply appreciate your willingness to take on this task, which is highly important to the future of the Northern Marianas people, to the United States' responsibility for the Trust Territory and to the peace and stability of the region.

As Plebiscite Commissioner, you will be responsible for assuring that this plebiscite is conducted objectively, impartially and in a manner which will guarantee that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands are able to exercise freely their right to determine their future political status.

In discharging your responsibilities, please keep me informed through the Secretary of the Interior, who has the overall responsibility for the administration of the Trust Territory. The Secretary will provide further guidance and support to you in this mission.

I wish you every success in this historic undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" at the beginning.

Mr. Erwin D. Canham
242 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

15/ 4/10

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