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4/11/75

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,

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

GRF:WNW:lmr

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