

EXECUTIVE

FGI-2

ST51

43590\*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 9, 1975

Dear Mr. Canham:

*Erwin D.*

Thank you for the full and interesting report of your mission as my personal representative in administering the June 17 plebiscite in the Northern Mariana Islands. I was, of course, pleased with the results of the plebiscite which demonstrated the strong desire of the people of the Northern Marianas for permanent association with the United States.

The results of the plebiscite were historically significant, but the manner in which it was carried out was equally important. It was essential that there should be no question that the people of the Northern Marianas fully understood the decision they were making and that the balloting be conducted in a totally objective and impartial manner. I was particularly pleased to hear your report of the high rate of registration and voting by those eligible to participate. This fact has further underscored the conclusion that the plebiscite represents a free expression of the wishes of the people.

Please accept my thanks for a job well done  
and convey my personal appreciation also to  
your Executive Director, Mr. N. Neiman Craley, Jr.

Sincerely,

*Gerald R. Ford*

Mr. Erwin D. Canham  
242 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116  
3

60

*Thanks for report of Northern  
Mariana Islands plebiscite. 75 07091835*

Photocopy from Gen. J.P. Ford's files