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(4)

February 26, 1976

EXECUTIVE

ST 51 (Northern Mariana Islands)

Dear Bennett:

FG 32  
FG 6-6

The Senate has taken a historic step in voting to approve the Covenant establishing a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States.

Final approval of the Covenant will be a major step in carrying out the United States obligation under the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement to grant the people of the Trust Territory the right of self-determination. Additionally, the granting of Commonwealth status to the Northern Marianas will strengthen the position of the United States in the western Pacific and indicate the determination of the United States to remain a Pacific power.

I am pleased that the resolution passed the Senate by a substantial margin. This would not have been possible without your active interest in the legislation, and I deeply appreciate the vigorous leadership you showed in managing the resolution on the floor. Your efforts have helped create a relationship mutually beneficial to the people of the Northern Marianas and the United States, and one which represents a real contribution to the security of this country.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD



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FEB 27 1976

CENTRAL FILES

The Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

- ✓ bcc: Les Janka, NSC, FYI
- ✓ bcc: NSC Secretariat, FYI
- ✓ bcc: Ambassador Hayden Williams, Micronesia Status Committee, Dept of State

GRF:MLF:NSC:JEB:kir

*Handwritten signatures and notes at the bottom of the page.*

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**EXECUTIVE**

ST 51  
PR 1

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February 26, 1976

Dear Jim:

I was very pleased to learn of the Senate vote to approve the covenant establishing a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States. This is historic legislation, and final approval of the Covenant will constitute a major step in carrying out United States obligations under the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement. The creation of an American Commonwealth in these islands will also strengthen United States security in the western Pacific and indicate the determination of the United States to remain a Pacific power.

I appreciate the active interest you have taken in the resolution and the successful efforts you made to obtain Senate approval. The margins of victory on the amendment to delay implementation and on final passage are clear indications of your effective work. I am most grateful for your strong support on this and so many other key issues in the Senate.

Sincerely,

**JERRY FORD**

The Honorable James A. McClure  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510



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- bcc: Les Janka, NSC, FYI
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- bcc: Ambassador Hayden Williams, Micronesian States Negotiations Committee, Department of State

GRF:MLF:NSC:JEB:kir

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*Committee of the States*

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