



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

19 March 1976

Honorable James T. Lynn
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

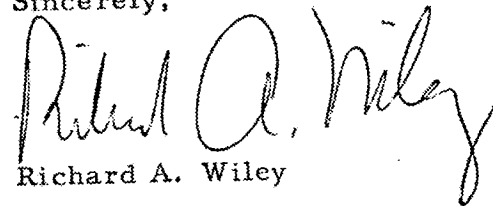
Dear Mr. Lynn:

This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Defense on the enrolled enactment of H. J. Res. 549, 94th Congress, "To approve the 'Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America', and for other purposes."

The covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas in political union with the United States clearly supports this Nation's national security interests and defense posture in the Western Pacific.

The Department of Defense recommends that the President approve H. J. Res. 549, in which the Congress expresses its approval of the covenant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard A. Wiley".

Richard A. Wiley