



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of Ronald Coleman
Executive Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Interior

SUBJECT: Letter from Vicente N. Santos re Speaker of
Legislative of Mariana Expresses Thanks to Pres
for favorable action on Covenant

The attached correspondence was forwarded to
the Department of State for:

Draft reply

Direct reply with comeback copy

Appropriate handling

We have reviewed the correspondence and believe
that action on this matter more appropriately rests
with your agency.

Office of the
Executive Secretary

cc: The White House



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SUGGESTED
DRAFT

The Hon. Vicente N. Santos
Speaker
Fourth Northern Mariana
Islands Legislature
P.O. Box 929
Susupe
Saipan, Mariana Islands, 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of all the people of the United States of America I acknowledge the expression of appreciation and gratitude of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands contained in the Fourth Northern Mariana Islands Legislature Resolution No. 102-1976.

It was my privilege and honor to sign into law the bill establishing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States. Occurring

~~this~~, our Bicentennial year, ~~there could be no more~~ appropriate gift to the American people than the recognition and acceptance by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands of the enduring and viable American system of ^{represents a high compliment} government ~~by the people~~ ^{to the American people}. The United States

we

looks forward to a lasting and mutually beneficial union.

Sincerely, ~~yours~~

*OK as edited
6/17/76*



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