

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

NSC #6705TQ

EXECUTIVE
ST 51

REFERRAL

To: Office of the Secretary
Department of Interior

Date: January 6, 1977

ACTION REQUESTED

- Draft reply for:
 - President's signature.
 - Undersigned's signature.
- Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ~~XXXX~~ Direct reply.
- ~~XXXX~~ Furnish information copy.
- Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- For your information.
- For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

~~XXXX~~ Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____

To: President Gerald R. Ford
 From: Santiago B. Magofna
 Date: Dec. 22, 1976
 Subject: Magofna forwards Resolution 296-1976 to the President adopted by the Fourth Northern Mariana Islands Legislation urging U.S. to approve the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

By direction of the President:

Jeanne W. Davis
Jeanne W. Davis



(White House File Copy)

Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

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GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE
P. O. BOX 929
SUSUPE, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

December 22, 1976

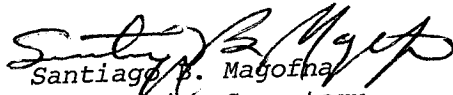
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sent

The Honorable Gerald Ford
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

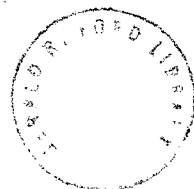
Dear Mr. President:

I am please to submit to you for your approval Resolution No. 296-1976, a resolution urging and requesting the United States Government to approve the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, duly adopted by the Fourth Northern Mariana Islands Legislature during its recently concluded Eighth Regular Session.

Sincerely yours,


Santiago B. Magofna
Legislative Secretary

attachment: Copy of Res. No. 296-1976



FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE

EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 296-1976

1976
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FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE

EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 296-1976

INTRODUCED BY: SEN. OLYMPIO T. BORJA, DELEGATE-AT-LARGE
SEN. OSCAR C. RASA, DELEGATE-AT-LARGE
SEN. LORENZO I. GUERRERO, SAIPAN
SEN. HERMAN T. PALACIOS, DELEGATE-AT-LARGE
SEN. MANUEL D. MUNA, SAIPAN

A RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING AND REQUESTING
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO APPROVE THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

WHEREAS, Article II of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth
of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States
of America, signed on February 15, 1975, and thereafter approved by
the United States Congress, authorizes the people of the Northern Mariana
Islands to draft and approve a Constitution for their future internal
government; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions on the said Article II, the
Fourth Northern Mariana Islands Legislature enacted District Law No. 4-205,
calling for a Constitutional Convention for the Northern Mariana Islands,
prescribing its powers, duties and functions, authorizing appropriation
therefore, and for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention was held
at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, from October 18 to December 6, 1976;
and

WHEREAS, the said Constitutional Convention drafted a Constitution
of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the President of
the Convention has transmitted the said Constitution to the Resident
Commissioner for submission to the people in a referendum; and

WHEREAS, upon approval by popular referendum, the Constitution will
be transmitted to the President of the United States, on behalf of the
Government of the United States, for its consideration; and



RES. NO. 296-1976

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WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands reflects the political aspirations of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, as expressed by their duly elected representatives sitting in the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature that said Constitution is fully consistent with the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and those provisions of the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States which will be applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to the said Covenant; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention has adopted Resolution No. 17, calling for the prompt consideration and approval of the Constitution by the Government of the United States following its approval by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, the approval of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by the United States Government, in accordance with Section 202 of the Commonwealth Covenant, will permit the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to attain their desire for a constitutional government in political union with the United States of America;

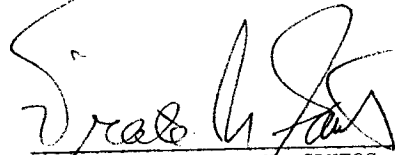
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fourth Northern Mariana Islands Legislature, Eighth Regular Session, 1976, that the United States Government is hereby respectfully requested to accord prompt consideration to and approval of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands following its approval by popular referendum of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands; and


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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; to the Secretary of Interior; to the President of the Senate; to the Speaker of the House of Representatives; to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; to the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; to the Chairman of the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs; to the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations; to the Director of the Office of Transition Studies and Planning; to the Resident Commissioner of the Northern Mariana Islands; and to the President of the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention.

PASSED BY THE FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE DECEMBER 17, 1976.


VICENTE N. SANTOS
Speaker


SANTIAGO B. MAGAÑA
Legislative Secretary

