

Marianas Statement

When the United States claimed its right to self-government two hundred and two years ago, it spoke not just of its own interests, but of a standard people everywhere should enjoy.

That is why I am proud to send you my greetings, on behalf of the American people, as the powers of full self-government are handed back to you.

Our nations have been associated for many decades, during which we have prepared together for this day. We remember those years with satisfaction; but most of all we are proud that you have chosen to remain part of the American political family.

I am glad that my son, Jeff, can be with you to extend my best personal wishes, along with the Undersecretary of the Interior, James Joseph, who is an eloquent spokesman for your interests in Washington. With his guidance and advice, our government will work closely with Governor _____, Resident Representative _____, and the other officials of the Government of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The Covenant between our nations says that we "share the goals and values ... of government by the consent of the governed, individual freedom, and democracy." There is no nation we are prouder to be associated than yours, and no better guiding principle for this new beginning in your history.

American Samoa Statement

I am proud to send my greetings, on behalf of the American people, to Governor Coleman, Lieutenant Governor Tufele, and all the people of American Samoa on this happy day.

For more than three quarters of a century, our people have been linked by ties of common values, mutual respect, and shared interests in the world. We have taken up arms together to protect the cause of peace and freedom. We have worked together for prosperity and human development. We have learned from each other's culture.

And we have shared the belief that people should decide, in a democratic fashion, the questions that affect them most closely. Today, as your first elected leaders are inaugurated, the authority for decisions that affect American Samoa passes to the leaders the people of American Samoa have chosen.

I am glad that my son, Jeff, can be with you to extend my best personal wishes, along with the Undersecretary of the Interior, James Joseph, who is an eloquent spokesman for your interests in Washington.

As a former Governor, I know that Governor Coleman will have his trials and difficulties ahead; but I share your knowledge that today all of you have won a rich prize.

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