



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Cable Address:
Gov. NMI Saipan

July 25, 1979

The Honorable John M. Murphy
Member
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife
Conservation, and the Environment
United States Congress
Capitol Hill
Washington, D.C.

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COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE
AND FISHERIES

Dear Honorable Murphy:

On behalf of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, I am seeking your assistance in a matter of serious economic and social concern.

Article 6(2) of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Former Japanese Mandated Islands places the duty upon the United States as the administering authority to promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of our citizens and to encourage the development of fisheries as a viable local industry.

The enclosed Position Paper of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) regarding the applicability of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) of 1976, as amended, demonstrates that the application of the FCMA to the waters within and adjacent to the CNMI would have a significant detrimental effect on the economic development and growth of the Commonwealth. Because of our location, the impact of the FCMA would retard economic advancement and self-sufficiency and discourage the development of our fisheries. This would be inconsistent with the duties and responsibilities of the United States imposed by Article 6(2) of the Trusteeship Agreement.

The Presidential authority pursuant to Section 1004 of the Covenant to establish A Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, (CNMI) In Political Union With the United States of America (U.S.P.L. No. 94-241, 48 U.S.C. 1681) and reserved by Presidential Proclamation

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No. 4534 (October 24, 1977) would allow the President to resolve our dilemma expeditiously.

Without prejudice to the Commonwealth's position and legal rights, I am respectfully requesting you to join us in requesting the President in issuing a Presidential Proclamation suspending the application of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) to the waters within and adjacent to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands wish to express their appreciation for any consideration you may give us in this important matter.

Hafa adai,



Carlos S. Camacho
Governor