



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Honorable Paul M. Calvo
Governor of Guam
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Governor Calvo:

In order to implement President Carter's message of February 14 to the Congress concerning United States policies toward the territories, I write to express to you my interest, and the interest of my colleagues in this Department, in conferring with you whenever you are disposed to do so on the subject of the political development of Guam.

You are, I know, aware of the President's remarks on this subject, but I shall repeat the pertinent portion of the message here, as a point of beginning:

In keeping with our fundamental policy of self-determination, all options for political development should be open to the people of the insular territories so long as their choices are implemented when economically feasible and in a manner that does not compromise the national security of the United States.

If the people of any of the territories wish to modify their current political status, they should express their aspirations to the Secretary of the Interior through their elected leaders, as is the case now. The Secretary, along with representatives of the appropriate Federal agencies, will, in turn, consult with territorial leaders on the issues raised. Following such discussions, a full report will be submitted to the Congress, along with the Secretary's proposals and recommendations.

Accordingly, we in the Interior Department look to you, and to other elected leaders of Guam, to make known to us the aspirations of the people of Guam for any modifications in their current political status. While we in the Executive Branch cannot "negotiate" changes in Guam's status, because the political status of any territory is constitutionally within the responsibility of the Congress, we can and will consult with you and your representatives, and we will make known to the Congress all proposals that you submit to us. I give you the assurance that, whether we are able to support the proposals or not as a matter of administration policy, we shall inform the Congress of them. If it appears to us that our consultations will be

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advanced by the presence of representatives from other agencies of the Executive Branch, we will invite them to join us.

I, or Deputy Under Secretary Wallace O. Green, will be writing you separately and soon with respect to other aspects of the President's message, such as his charge that this Department make recommendations on Federal court reform in Guam. We will also be writing you further concerning the elimination of Federal economic constraints, in order to follow up both on our economic seminars of last November and on the President's directive on that subject.

We see no reason to defer action on these or any other subjects of current concern pending the establishment of a Federal laws commission. We have sent forward legislation to the Congress to provide for such a commission, but we would not wish to use that legislation, nor the Commission itself should it come into existence, as a device to delay action on proposals that we agree with you deserve immediate attention.

Because they, too, are elected leaders of Guam, I am sending letters similar to this to the Speaker of the Guam Legislature and the Delegate from Guam to the Congress.

We look forward to learning how you would like to proceed.

Sincerely,

SECRETARY