

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR CARLOS S. CAMACHO
AT DEDICATION OF PERMANENT DISPLAY OF
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FLAG AT
MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL
MAY 16, 1980

I MUST CONFESS TO A FEELING OF AMAZEMENT AND OF DISBELIEF AT FINDING MYSELF CELEBRATING WITH YOU THE MEMORY OF THOSE GREAT AMERICAN PRESIDENTS WHOSE CAREERS HAVE SHAPED AMERICAN HISTORY, AND, INCREASINGLY, ARE SHAPING THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD; FOR AT THE TIME THESE GREAT LEADERS WERE IN OFFICE, FEW PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES KNEW THAT THE ISLANDS OF MY NATIVITY EXISTED-- THOSE ISLANDS THAT ARE NOW KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS; AND I DOUBT IF A SINGLE ONE OF OUR PEOPLE, PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II, KNEW THE NAME OF A SINGLE U.S. PRESIDENT, OR, ^{that more than a handful of them} PERHAPS, THAT SUCH A NATION AS THE UNITED STATES EVEN EXISTED. TRULY THE WORLD WAS A VAST ONE IN THOSE DAYS AND ITS GLOBE CONTAINED MANY DARK AREAS FOR US, AND, I SUSPECT, FOR YOU ALSO. BUT THIS IS TRUE NO LONGER AND THE WORLD HAS SHRUNK TO UNDERSTANDABLE, IF NOT MANAGEABLE, DIMENSIONS. I THINK THAT IT PROBABLY SEEMED QUITE NORMAL TO YOU PEOPLE TO INVITE ME TO COME 10,000 MILES TO SHARE THIS CEREMONY WITH YOU SINCE YOU KNEW THAT SUCH A TRIP REQUIRES ONLY A FEW HOURS OF FLYING TIME.

I MUST WARN YOU, HOWEVER, THAT I CAN SHARE THIS HISTORIC PAST WITH YOU ONLY VICARIOUSLY, OR AS AN AMAZED AND ENCHANTED VOYEUR, SINCE I, AND THE PEOPLE I REPRESENT, WILL NOT BECOME FULL-FLEDGED, UN-

EQUIVOCAL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES UNTIL 1981. SO TODAY, AS I SPEAK TO YOU, YOUR HISTORY IS NOT OUR HISTORY, NOT UNTIL 1981, NOT UNTIL WE SWEAR OUR OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE IN 1981 WILL WE BECOME ONE WITH YOU AND INHERIT, AS ONE OF OUR INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP, THE HISTORY THAT IS TOLD IN THIS GREAT MOUNTAIN MONUMENT.

I SPEAK OF SHARING HISTORY WITH YOU, AND I MEAN PRECISELY THAT, FOR WE WILL BRING WITH US AS PART OF OUR 'DOWERY' THE HISTORY OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN AND ITS ISLANDS AND THEIR INHABITANTS-- A HISTORY THAT BEGINS IN RICH MYTH AND IS THEN DEBAUCHED IN MURKY COLONIALISM; BUT WHICH, WITHIN RECENT MEMORY, EMERGES AS VIVID, LIVID, DANGEROUS, AND SOMETIMES HEROIC HISTORY, THOUGH INTENSELY HUMAN TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE LIVED IT.

THE MYTHS YOU KNOW ARE NOT THE MYTHS WE TELL EACH OTHER. YOUR MYTHS WILL BE THOSE OF MARTYRED MISSIONARIES, AND OF OUR SAVAGE EXCESSES. WE TELL EACH OTHER MYTHS OF TENDER DEVOTION AND LOYALTY, MYTHS OF GREAT VOYAGES AND GREAT BATTLES, AND GREAT ENTERPRISES THAT ARE EQUIVALENT TO THOSE OF BEOWULF. WITNESS THIS MYTH, OR POSSIBLY ACTUAL HISTORIC EVENT, IN MARKEDLY ABBREVIATED FORM: HOW OUR PEOPLE LEARNED TO HEAT SLING STONES TO A BLAZING HEAT SO THAT THEY WOULD SET FIRE TO THE SAILS OF INVADING WAR CANOES WHICH COULD THEN BE EASILY OUTMANEUVERED AND DESTROYED; A METHOD THAT WAS PROBABLY USED TO REPEL A FAMOUS ATTEMPTED INVASION OF SAIPAN BY FIERCE YAPESE WARRIORS. AND COMPARE THAT SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE METHOD TO THE CUMBERSOME SYSTEM OF MIRRORS THAT ARCHIMEDES IS SAID TO HAVE INVENTED AND USED SIMILARLY TO DESTROY A ROMAN FLEET. THEN, FOLLOWING MAGELLAN, COME HISTORIC TIMES WITH THEIR STORIES

AND SONGS OF COLONIALISM, STORIES OF BITTER DISCRIMINATION, TALES OF SLAVERY AND FORCED LABOR THAT LASTED 400 YEARS, EVEN UP TO WORLD WAR II. BUT FROM THERE ON NOTHING IS MYTH, AND NOTHING IS ONLY HALF-REMEMBERED. I SEE AN EIGHT YEAR OLD BOY CLEARLY WHO ONE DAY IS TO BECOME THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, WHO ONE DAY WILL SPEAK TO YOU AT THIS VERY MEETING. I SEE HIM HIDING WITH HIS FAMILY IN A CAVE DURING A DEAFENING BOMBARDMENT OF HIS ISLAND. HE IS NOT AFRAID FOR HE HAS BECOME INURED TO CATASTROPHE, HAVING HIDDEN IN THIS SAME CAVE MANY TIMES AS TYPHOONS WRECKED SAIPAN AND FLATTENED HIS FAMILY HOME. HE IS NOT AFRAID, BUT HE IS SILENT FOR HE IS PONDERING THE MEANING OF THIS NEW KIND OF HAVOC. IS HE HOSTILE TO THOSE WHO ARE DESTROYING HIS ISLAND? NO, I THINK NOT, FOR TO HIM THE INVADERS ARE AS MUCH ~~ARE AS MUCH~~ AN ABSTRACTION AS ARE THE FORCES THAT GENERATE TYPHOONS. I SEE HIM SEVERAL DAYS LATER WHEN HE HAS BECOME SO BOLD THAT HE STANDS IN THE CAVE'S ENTRANCE, WIDE-EYED WITH WONDER AND EVEN WITH ADMIRATION FOR THE BATTLE THAT IS BEING FOUGHT ON ALL SIDES OF HIM AND OVER HIS HEAD. HIS AUNT, EVEN BOLDER, STANDS SEVERAL YARDS OUTSIDE THE CAVE. A SHELL BURSTS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF HIM WITH SPLIT-SECOND, BLINDING GLARE; THEN HE SEES HIS AUNT STILL STANDING IN FRONT OF HIM JUST AS SHE HAD BEEN STANDING BEFORE THE EXPLOSION, BUT MINUS HER HEAD WHICH NOW LIES AT THE BOY'S FEET. I LOOK BACK AT THAT EVENT AND WOULD LIKE TO FIND THAT THE BOY IS OVERCOME WITH ANGUISH, OR AT LEAST WITH TERROR. BUT I FIND NEITHER. I FIND HIM MUTE AND UNEMOTIONAL AND ACCEPTING THIS AS THE KIND OF WORLD HE HAS INHERITED AND MUST LEARN TO LIVE IN.

LET ME NOW DESCRIBE OUR ISLANDS TO YOU SO YOU CAN VISUALIZE THEM, AND SO THAT SOME OF YOU MAY DECIDE TO COME AND SEE THEM FOR YOURSELVES. ON THE MAP, THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ARE A LOOSE, THIN CHAIN OF SMALL ARCHIPELAGIC ISLANDS THAT STRETCH NORTH-SOUTH FOR 500 MILES THROUGH THE TROPICS. THEY ARE THE PEAKS OF A MOUNTAIN RANGE THAT APPEAR MODEST AND GENTLE IN THOSE PORTIONS SEEN ABOVE WATER, BUT IN THEIR SUBMERGED DIMENSIONS AND CONTOURS THEY RANK WITH THE TALLEST, MOST SHEER, MOST FORMIDABLE MOUNTAINS ON EARTH FOR THEY SPRING FROM DEPTHS AND GORGES OF THE GREAT MARIANAS TRENCH. RICH JUNGLES AND RAIN FORESTS COVER THESE MOUNTAIN-ISLANDS AND THEY ARE SURROUNDED BY VAST STRETCHES OF SAND BEACHES AND GLOWING CORAL REEFS. THERE ARE CLIFFS THAT DROP SHEER INTO THE OCEAN AND THAT SOMETIMES CONTAIN IMMENSE GROTTOS THAT WAVES HAVE SCULPTORED INTO THEM. ON ONE SIDE, THE OCEAN IS DESIGNATED AS THE PHILIPPINE SEA, THOUGH THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS DO NOT APPEAR ON THE MAP FOR ANOTHER 1,500 MILES; AND ON THE OTHER SIDE IS THE PACIFIC OCEAN WHICH ONCE STRETCHED INTO INFINITY ITSELF. OUR ISLANDS LIE IN THE VERY TRACK OF THE MOST DEVASTATING TYPHOONS EVER RECORDED . . . FREQUENTLY RECORDED. VOLCANOES ARE ACTIVE FROM TIME TO TIME ON THE NORTHERN-MOST ISLANDS. SOMETIMES WE LOOK OUT AT SEA AND SEE EVIDENCE OF UNDERWATER VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS. . . . TYPHOONS, EVIDENCE OF VOLCANIC ACTIVITY, OCCASIONAL EARTH TREMORS REMIND US OF THE PRIMEVAL FORCES THAT WE LIVE WITH, AND OF THE FACT THAT LIFE HERE IS SOMETIMES PRECARIOUS. ABOUT 16,000 PEOPLE LIVE ON THESE ISLANDS, MOST OF THEM ON SAIPAN WHICH IS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER.

THE STRENGTH AND ALSO NEAR-FATAL FLAW OF THESE ISLANDS IS THEIR GEOGRAPHIC POSITION WHICH PLACES THEM IN LOCATION WHERE THE AMBITIONS OF MANY NATIONS INTERSECT AND INTERACT. THIS MIGHT BE CALLED A STRAT_

EGIC POSITION OF HIGH VALUE THAT IS TO BE CHERISHED, OR A POSITION OF HIGH RISK THAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED, DEPENDING ON ONE'S POINT OF VIEW. FOR CENTURIES IT WAS THE ROUTE OF SAILING SHIPS AND WHALERS; NOW IT IS THE ROUTE OF AIRCRAFT, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, OF BOMBERS, AND OF SUBMARINES. IT IS ALSO IN THE CENTER OF THE PACIFIC FISHING GROUNDS, AND, PERHAPS, OF FUTURE DEEP-SEA MINING ACTIVITIES. FOR CENTURIES WE HAVE FELT THE GREED OF EXPANSIONIST NATIONS AND THE DANGER OF BEING DESIRED TOO ARDENTLY. THUS, WE HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED AND EXPLOITED IN TURN BY THE SPANISH, THE GERMANS, AND THE JAPANESE--OUR VOCABULARY, OUR CUSTOMS, OUR FOOD HABITS CHANGING SUPERFICIALLY WITH EACH ENCOUNTER. AND IT WAS FROM THIS CYNICAL POINT OF VIEW THAT WE REGARDED THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION, FOR IT APPEARED AT FIRST TO BE A SIMPLE CONTINUUM OF DOMINATION BY THE MOST EXPANSIONIST-MINDED POWER IN THE AREA . . . AND WE PREPARED OURSELVES FOR ITS PARTICULAR BRAND OF EXPLOITATION WHATEVER THAT MIGHT BE. BUT THAT NEVER APPEARED. QUITE THE REVERSE. AMERICAN ADMINISTRATORS, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING A BUMBLING LOT FOR THEY FAILED TO REESTABLISH, OR EVEN SHOW MUCH INTEREST IN THE SELF-SUSTAINING ECONOMIES THAT THE JAPANESE HAD WORKED ON SO EFFICIENTLY AND SO PITEOUSLY. THEY FAILED AS ENTREPRENEURS AND THEY FAILED AS EXPLOITERS, BUT THEY SUCCEEDED BRILLIANTLY AS HUMAN BEINGS WHO TAUGHT US SELF-RESPECT AND OUR INHERENT RIGHT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION. ONE INCIDENT IS WORTH RECOUNTING WHERE THEIR BUMBLING ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS ACTUALLY SAVED A PROGRAM THAT WAS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED WITH IGNOBLE AND SHABBY INTENT. IN 1963, A HIGHLY PLACED NEW YORK-BASED CONSULTING FIRM STUDIED US AND MADE A SECRET RECOMMENDATION THAT OUR VILLAGES AND SCHOOLS AND DEPARTMENTS BE SATURATED WITH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRAINWASHING US NATIVES INTO PERMANENT POLITICAL AFFILIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS CAME BUT THEY WERE NOT WHAT THESE CONSULTANTS HAD IN MIND. THEY WERE SMART YOUNG REBELS FROM THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES OF THE 1960s. BRAINWASHING WAS WHAT THEY WERE MOST AGAINST, AND THEY TAUGHT OUR VILLAGE PEOPLE AND OUR EMERGING LEADERS TO QUESTION EVERY ISSUE AND TO CONFRONT ANYONE WHO WOULD TRY TO INFLUENCE THEM. IN A WAY, THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BECAME A MINI-PROTOTYPE OF UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN REVOLT, WITH DEMONSTRATIONS, NOISY ARGUMENTS, THREATS, AND EVEN SOME VIOLENCE. BUT THIS WAS THE WAY WE LEARNED ABOUT DEMOCRACY, AND GRADUALLY WE FOUND THAT THIS WAS THE WAY WE WANTED TO LIVE AND TO GOVERN OURSELVES. . . . PERHAPS 400 YEARS OF HUMILIATION AND SERVITUDE ACTUALLY PREPARED US FOR THIS EXPLOSION INTO DEMOCRACY.

TO BE THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST EXPLODED INTO DEMOCRACY IS NOT AN EASY MATTER FOR THE NEW EXPECTATIONS THAT GO WITH SUCH AN EXPLOSION KNOW NO BOUNDS, AND CLAN AND FAMILY AND PERSONAL RIVALRIES BREAK THROUGH ALL TRADITIONAL RESTRAINING BARRIERS. NOR HAS IT BEEN EASY TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT THOSE ECONOMIC CHANGES THAT HAD BEEN NEGLECTED FOR THE LAST 30-SOME YEARS. OUR COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT WAS INAUGURATED JANUARY 9, 1978, JUST A LITTLE OVER TWO YEARS AGO;; BUT WITHIN THAT SHORT SPACE OF TIME WE HAVE COME A VERY LONG WAY IN REPAIRING BASIC DEFECTS. FOR INSTANCE: JUST BEFORE LEAVING SAIPAN, I OFFICIALLY OPENED A NEW, NINE MILLION DOLLAR POWER PLANT WHICH WILL BE THE MOST EFFICIENT PRODUCER OF ELECTRICAL POWER IN THE ENTIRE PACIFIC AREA; AND AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM TO TEST OUR GREAT OCEAN DEPTHS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY THROUGH OTEC METHODOLOGY. NEW AND QUITE BEAUTIFUL AIRPORT TERMINALS AND FACILITIES HAVE BEEN CREATED ON OUR

MAJOR ISLANDS, COMMUNICATIONS ARE BEING IMPROVED, AND SO ARE OUR HIGHWAYS. THERE ARE NOW SIX MAJOR TOURIST-QUALITY HOTELS IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, AND TOURISM HAS BECOME A THRIVING, HIGHLY PROFITABLE INDUSTRY. NEW MEDICAL FACILITIES ARE PLANNED AND THEIR FUNDING HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED. AND SO ON. I WILL NOT GO FURTHER INTO THIS CATALOGUE OF DEVELOPMENTS BUT WILL SEND YOU DOCUMENTATION THAT WILL PARTIALLY COMPLETE THIS LIST. THESE DOCUMENTS WILL CONSIST OF MY INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF JANUARY 9, 1978, AND MY FIRST AND SECOND STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH ADDRESSES.

YOU MAY SAY, "BUT THESE ARE PHYSICAL CHANGES, THESE ARE THINGS OF IMMEDIATE, PALPABLE BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE. OF COURSE THEY LIKE THEM AND SEE THE VALUE OF THE UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS MADE THEM POSSIBLE. BUT HOW ABOUT THINGS OF THE SPIRIT AND OF BASIC LOYALTY?" AND I ANSWER BY GIVING YOU AN ILLUSTRATION. AT THE TIME OF INAUGURATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENT CARTER, BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, ARRANGED THAT OUR PEOPLE, THOUGH LEGALLY ALIEN UNTIL 1981, SHOULD BE TREATED AS CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR IMMIGRATION PURPOSES, THUS VOIDING THE NECESSITY OF STANDING IN LINE FOR PASSPORT INSPECTION. THIS WAS ACCEPTED BY US WITH APPARENT MATTER-OF-FACT NONCHALANCE. BUT RECENTLY A HIGH-RANKING BUREAUCRAT IN THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE EXECUTIVE ORDER, RULED THAT IT WAS ILLEGAL AND ORDAINED US BACK TO OUR FULL ALIEN STATUS UNTIL 1981. ACTUALLY, THIS IMPOSED NO GREAT HARDSHIP ON US, BUT THE AFFRONT TO OUR NEW-FOUND IDENTITY OF PARTIAL CITIZENSHIP WAS OVERWHELMING. SUDDEN DECLARATION OF WAR, AND RETURN TO OUR WAR-TIME CAVES WOULD HAVE HAD NO GREATER IMPACT!

WE APPEALED DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT CARTER WHO RESTORED OUR CITIZENSHIP PRIVILEGE AND TOOK APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THE FRACTIOUS BUREAUCRAT. I WAS PLEASED TO WRITE TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND SAY:

"I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ACTION THAT RE-ESTABLISHES ~~AND~~ RESTORES CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS FOR IMMIGRATION PURPOSES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. I SUPPOSE THAT THE MATTER DID NOT APPEAR VERY IMPORTANT TO OFFICIALS IN THE FAR-AWAY IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, BUT TO US WHO LIVE HERE AND WHO ARE RAPIDLY LEARNING TO FIND OUR SECURITY AND OUR PRIDE AND OUR VERY IDENTITY ITSELF IN CITIZENSHIP, THIS CAME AS SHEER CATASTROPHE. PLEASE BE REASSURED THAT OUR OUTRAGE OVER THE INCIDENT WAS A TRUE AND PRECISE MEASURE OF THE VALUE WE PLACE ON THE PROSPECT OF EVENTUAL FULL CITIZENSHIP. I SEE THE ENTIRE INCIDENT--OUR OUTRAGE AND YOUR THOUGHTFUL, PERSONAL INTERVENTION--AS OMEN AND TOKEN OF THE PERMANENCE AND TRUST AND DIGNITY AND ABIDING MUTUAL SATISFACTION FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH ADVENTURE WHICH YOU HAVE HELPED US INITIATE."

I HAVE GONE SOMEWHAT EXTENSIVELY INTO THESE DETAILS, SOME OFFICIAL, SOME PERSONAL AND FACTUAL, SOME WHIMSICAL, SO THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE WHO LIVE ON A REMOTE PACIFIC ARCHIPELAGO THAT YOU ACQUIRED BY CONQUEST SOME 30 YEARS AGO, BUT WHO, THROUGH A PERIOD OF KINDLY AND BUNGLING ADMINISTRATION HAVE COME TO ADMIRE AND TRUST YOU: AND WHO BELIEVE THAT YOU ABOVE ALL OTHERS ON THIS EARTH ARE THE ONES WE WISH TO JOIN. OUR SCHOOLS NOW TEACH AMERICAN HISTORY ALONG WITH OUR OWN HISTORY, AND OUR CHILDREN KNOW THE NAMES AND THE PERFORMANCES OF THE PRESIDENTS THAT ARE CELEBRATED ON THIS

MONUMENT. TO OUR YOUNGER GENERATION WITH ITS EYES ON THE FUTURE THERE IS NO CONFLICT WHATSOEVER IN OUR HISTORIES OR IN THE COMMON DESTINY TO WHICH THESE HISTORIES ARE NOW COMMITTING US, *together,*

ALSO, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE DO NOT COME WITH EMPTY HANDS. WE COME AS PEOPLE WHOSE LOYALTIES AND STEADFASTNESS HAVE BEEN TESTED TO THE EXTREME BY CATAclysms. WE COME AS PEOPLE WHOSE CYNICISM HAS BEEN OVERCOME BY YOUR EXAMPLE. WE COME AS A PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED ALL OUR LIVES ON A FRONTIER AND KNOW AND PRACTICE FRONTIER PRECEPTS SUCH AS AMERICANS KNEW AND PRACTICED SEVERAL GENERATIONS AGO. I THINK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT WE SHALL BECOME HONORABLE AMERICAN CITIZENS THAT WILL FIT NATURALLY INTO THE AMERICAN HERITAGE AS DEFINED BY THE PRESIDENTS WE CELEBRATE TODAY.

TO SEE THE NEW FLAG OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TAKE ITS PLACE AMONG THE OTHER FLAGS OF THIS NATION IS A VERY MOVING EXPERIENCE FOR ME. PERHAPS IT WILL BE A MOVING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU ALSO IF I EXPLAIN ITS MEANING. THE BLUE FIELD, OF COURSE, IS THE OCEAN THAT SURROUNDS US. IT IS VIVID BLUE BECAUSE THAT IS THE SHADE OF BLUE THAT THE PACIFIC ^{Ocean} ASSUMES IN THE TROPICS. YOU SEE A SINGLE STAR THAT REPRESENTS OUR COMMONWEALTH STATUS, AND THE UNITY THAT BINDS OUR ISLANDS TOGETHER; AND BEHIND IT, AS IF SUPPORTING IT, IS AN ANCIENT LATTE STONE. LATTE STONES ARE OUR OLDEST AND MOST REVERED ARTIFACTS AND THEY ANTEDATE RECORDED AND REMEMBERED HISTORY. THEY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN THE INGENIOUS AND SOMETIMES MASSIVE SUPPORTS FOR THE HOMES OF OUR VERY FIRST ANCESTORS. THEIR DESIGN SUGGESTS STRENGTH, MYSTIC STRENGTH PERHAPS, EXTENDING FROM THE GREAT ANCIENT SUBMERGED MOUNTAINS THAT ARE FOUNDATION TO OUR ISLANDS--AND THAT IS THE REASON WE WANT A LATTE STONE ON OUR FLAG, FOR IT SEEMS

TO TELL THE WAY WE FEEL ABOUT OURSELVES AS WE PREPARE, THIS LATE
TWENTIETH CENTURY, TO JOIN WITH ALL WHOSE FLAGS ARE DISPLAYED HERE.

I CONCLUDE THESE REMARKS BY REVERTING FOR A MOMENT TO MY NATIVE
LANGUAGE OF CHAMARRO WHICH IS THE LANGUAGE IN WHICH I DREAM AND IN
WHICH I DO MOST OF MY THINKING, AND I SAY TO YOU:

SI YUUS MA'ASE POT I HONRO NI NAHIE YO YAN I TAOTAO MARIANAS
YAN LOCUE POT ESTE NA OPOTUNIDAD NI PARA BAI U SAU-NAO GUINE NA
CEREMONAS. U EXTE-TENDI PARA TODOS HAMYO BIEN BENIDO YAN SINCERIO
NA HAF AADAI.

THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU, AND BLESS AMERICA.