



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

5 SEP 1980

Honorable James T. McIntyre, Jr.
Director, Office of Management and Budget

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

The Secretary of Defense has delegated responsibility to the Department of the Army for reporting the views of the Department of Defense on enrolled enactment H.R. 4627, 96th Congress, "To authorize the enlistment of citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands in the Armed Forces of the United States of America."

The Department of the Army, on behalf of the Department of Defense, recommends approval of the enrolled enactment.

The title of the bill states its purpose.

The enactment of this measure is considered desirable as it establishes the procedures by which qualified citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands may enlist in the Armed Forces.

Approval of the enactment will cause no apparent increase in budgetary requirements for the Department of Defense.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will Peacock".

William E. Peacock
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

SIGNING STATEMENT - H.R. 4627

I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4627 which will permit the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to enlist in our Armed Forces

In approving the Covenant to establish their Commonwealth, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands freely and overwhelmingly chose to become Americans. They will become United States Citizens when the Covenant takes effect upon termination of the Pacific Islands Trusteeship Agreement. Until that time, however, they are effectively blocked from military service.

The inability to serve their Nation during this period has been a source of severe disappointment to many young people in the islands. This bill rectifies that situation by giving them the right to enlist during the remaining period of trusteeship.

I want to congratulate Senator J. Bennett Johnston, Jr. and Delegate Antonio B. Won Pat for guiding H.R. 4627 through the Congress. This new law is a symbol of the permanent political union between the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands. That it was enacted at the request of the people of the islands, through Governor Carlos S. Camacho and Representative Edward DLG. Pangelinan, is a testament to the loyalty of the newest members of the American political family.