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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

May 24, 1984

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4938

May 3, 1984

47 Fed. Reg. No. 87

May 5, 1984

Ms. Cecelia Wirtz
Office of General Counsel
Office of Management and Budget
Room 647
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Wirtz:

We are in receipt of your letter of May 21, 1984, requesting our comments on a revised version of an Executive Proclamation concerning the "Application of Certain Laws of the United States to Citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands."

As I mentioned in our telephone conversation, we have previously submitted comments on earlier versions of this proposed Proclamation. Moreover, we earlier consulted and advised both the Department of the Interior and the Northern Mariana Islands Commission concerning certain citizenship requirements imposed by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 151 et seq., and how those requirements would impact upon nationals of the Mariana Islands.

In reviewing the current version of the Proclamation, I note the absence of any reference to the provisions of the Communications Act under the section relating to "Statutes relating to Commerce." You should be advised that the Communications Act proscribes the granting of various types of licenses to aliens. This, of course, would have a direct bearing on the nationals of the Mariana Islands who are not, at this juncture, citizens of the United States.

In this connection, I have enclosed copies of earlier correspondence and a draft Proclamation submitted to OMB in November 1981. This draft Proclamation, prepared by the Department of Interior, would suspend certain provisions of our organic statute, and allow this Agency to issue licenses and other instruments of authority to citizens of the Mariana Islands to operate telephone exchanges and/or radio or television stations. I am unaware of the current status of the 1981 draft Proclamation. Perhaps the citizenship question has already been



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Ms. Cecelia Wirtz

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resolved. However, if this issue remains open, you should be aware of this problem before finalizing the terms of the new Executive Proclamation.

If any further assistance may be required, kindly advise me.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence S. Schaffner
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures