

374921

Office of the Resident Representative to the United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

2121 R STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008



PHONE: (202) 328-3847
TELEX: 650 261 6638

February 5, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a copy of a message that I received from one of my constituents, Roberta K. Guerrero, of Saipan. Ms. Guerrero complains, and rightfully so I believe, that she has been denied the right to vote in a local election in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Such may be the unfortunate result of a recent amendment to the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. This amendment is included for your information as Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 44 as adopted by the Second Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention. Although it received less than a simple majority of the ballots cast in last November's election, the proposal was recently certified as ratified because of the high number of abstentions recorded on the proposal.

Amendment No. 44 was widely criticized by many observers, including myself, as violative of the U.S. Constitution and the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, Pub. L. 94-241. I understand that the issue of the amendment's legal validity is currently before the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

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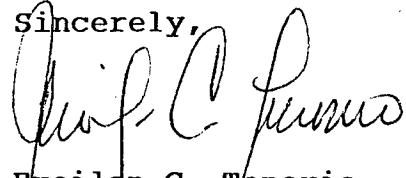
Reagan

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The Honorable Ronald Reagan
February 5, 1986
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Naturally, I am very concerned about this state of affairs where United States citizens are concerned, more especially since I am a United States citizen myself. I share Ms. Guerrero's concern both officially and personally. Please let me know if I can be of assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Froilan C. Tenorio
Resident Representative

Enclosures: Telex message
Proposed Amendment No. 44

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A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

To amend Section 8 of the Schedule on Transitional Matters relating to Interim Definition of Citizenship.

THE SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ADOPTS AND PROPOSES FOR RATIFICATION THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT:

1 I. Section 8 of the Schedule on Transitional Matters
2 is amended to read:

3 "Section 8: Interim Definition of Citizenship.

4 For the period from the approval of the Constitution
5 by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to the
6 termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the term
7 United States citizen or United States national as
8 used in the Constitution and laws of the Northern
9 Mariana Islands means those persons who, on the date
10 of approval of the Constitution by the people of the
11 Northern Mariana Islands, do not owe allegiance to
12 any foreign state and who qualify under one of the
13 following criteria, as well as their children
14 regardless of their date of birth:

15 "a) persons who were born in the Northern
16 Mariana Islands, who are citizens of the Trust
17 Territory of the Pacific Islands on the date of
18 the approval of the Constitution by the people of
19 the Northern Mariana Islands and who on that date
20 are domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands or
21 in the United States or any territory or

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1 possession thereof;
2 b) persons who are citizens of the Trust
3 Territory of the Pacific Islands on the date of
4 the approval of the Constitution by the people of
5 the Northern Mariana Islands, who have been
6 domiciled continuously in the Northern Mariana
7 Islands for at least five years immediately
8 prior to that date, and who, unless under age,
9 registered to vote in elections for the Mariana
10 Islands District Legislature or for any municipal
11 election in the Northern Mariana Islands prior to
12 January 1, 1975; or

13 c) persons domiciled in the Northern Mariana
14 Islands on the date of the approval of the
15 Constitution by the people of the Northern Mariana
16 Islands, who, although not citizens of the Trust
17 Territory of the Pacific Islands, on that date
18 have been domiciled continuously in the Northern
19 Mariana Islands beginning prior to January 1,
20 1974."
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T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

FEBRUARY 18, 1986

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
ATTN: RICK MONTOYA

ACTION REQUESTED:

~~APPROPRIATE ACTION~~

Direct Reply

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 374921
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 5, 1986
TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN
FROM: THE HONORABLE FROILAN C. TENORIO
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS
2121 R STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20008

20 19:18
R10R

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE