

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 22, 1986

Dear Mr. Tenorio:

President Reagan has requested that I thank you for, and respond to, your letter of June 10, 1986 regarding the conduct of consultations between the special representatives of the President of the United States and the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) pursuant to section 902 of P.L. 94-241.

In May, 1985, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio wrote to the President requesting that special representatives meet to discuss various issues affecting the relationship between the United States and the NMI. In June 1985, Lt. Governor Pedro A. Tenorio was appointed as the Special Representative of the Governor and on September 13, 1985, Assistant Secretary Richard T. Montoya was appointed as the President's Special Representative. These were the same representatives who, last year, successfully reached agreement on the recommendation which the President transmitted to the Congress on the level of future financial assistance to be provided by the United States pursuant to Section 701.

Despite some unfortunate initial misunderstandings, differences have been set aside and formal discussions were initiated to develop agreement on the procedures to be followed. There has been a cooperative exchange of positions on a procedures agreement and we anticipate final agreement on this matter very soon.

Recent criticism by Assistant Secretary Montoya and Alan Nelson Commissioner of the Immigration and Nationalization Service, was directed at what the Administration believes are excessive uses of alien labor in all of the insular areas. Given the expressed criteria of Section 902, the Administration also expects that a number of other issues, affecting all of the insular areas, such as Headnote 3(a) and Customs quotas, will be the subject of attention by the special representatives.

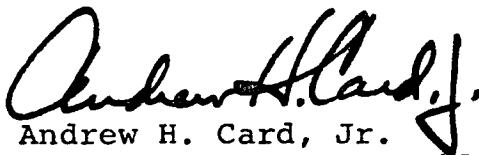
Honorable Frolian C. Tenorio

Page two

The Administration's position on the various issues, as during the discussions on the financial agreement, will be coordinated by Assistant Secretary Montoya and the Office of Management and Budget, with the report and recommendations as required by the Covenant to be submitted to the President for appropriate action.

We know that Assistant Secretary Montoya fully recognizes his responsibility as the President's Special Representative and will, as required by the Covenant, consider in good faith the issues affecting the relationship between our Governments. He has been advised of the concerns expressed in your letter to the President. We are confident of his ability to undertake this very important task. While the representatives of our governments will not always be in agreement, we feel both parties are equally committed to serious consultations.

Sincerely,



Andrew H. Card, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President
for Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Frolian C. Tenorio
Resident Representative to the
United States
Northern Mariana Islands
2121 R. Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Reproduced at the Ronald Reagan Library

DRAFT FOR WHITE HOUSE RESPONSE

Honorable Froilan C. Tenorio
Resident Representative to the
United States
Northern Mariana Islands
2121 R. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. Tenorio:

President Reagan has requested that I thank you for, and respond to, your letter of June 10, 1986 regarding the conduct of consultations between the special representatives of the President of the United States and the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) pursuant to Section 902 of P.L. 94-241.

In May 1985, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio wrote to the President requesting that special representatives meet to discuss various issues affecting the relationship between the United States and the NMI. In June 1985, Lt. Governor Pedro A. Tenorio was appointed as the Special Representative of the Governor and on September 13, 1985, Assistant Secretary Richard T. Montoya was appointed as the President's Special Representative. These were the same representatives who, last year, successfully reached agreement on the recommendation which the President transmitted to the Congress on the level of future financial assistance to be provided by the United States pursuant to Section 701.

Despite some unfortunate initial misunderstandings, differences have been set aside and formal discussions were initiated to develop agreement on the procedures to be followed. There has been a cooperative exchange of positions on a procedures agreement and we anticipate final agreement on this matter very soon.

Recent criticism by Assistant Secretary Montoya and Alan Nelson, Commissioner of the Immigration and Nationalization Service, was directed at what the Administration believes are excessive uses of alien labor in all of the insular areas. Given the expressed views of the NMI Government, this is an issue which meets the criteria of Section 902. The Administration also expects that a number of other issues, affecting all of the insular areas, such as Headnote 3(a) and Customs quotas, will be the subject of attention by the special representatives.

Honorable Froilan C. Tenorio

Page two

The Administration's position on the various issues, as during the discussions on the financial agreement, will be coordinated by Assistant Secretary Montoya and the Office of Management and Budget, with the report and recommendations as required by the Covenant to be submitted to the President for appropriate action.

We know that Assistant Secretary Montoya fully recognizes his responsibility as the President's Special Representative and will, as required by the Covenant, consider in good faith the issues affecting the relationship between our Governments. He has been advised of the concerns expressed in your letter to the President. We are confident of his ability to undertake this very important task. While the representatives of our governments will not always be in agreement, we feel both parties are equally committed to serious consultations.

Sincerely,