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Office of the Resident Representative to the United States

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September 26, 1986

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

Dear Mr. President:

As you are aware, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, alone among Micronesian groups, have chosen to join in political union with the United States. We have waited patiently for many years to take our place as full members of the American political community. Several times we have been promised a date by which the U.N. Trusteeship Agreement would be terminated, only to have some aspect of negotiation between the United States and the other emerging entities cause a delay. On each of these occasions we have been understanding of the problems of the United States and of its desire for concomitant termination for all areas under the trusteeship.

Last week, however, an appellate panel of the Palau Supreme Court decided that the Compact of Free Association was not properly approved by Palau voters under their constitution. Prompt termination for all of Micronesia seems to have slipped from our grasp once more.

Our people can wait no longer. Over eleven years ago we voted to become Americans, but that status is still denied us. We are loyal; we are patriotic; we are proud. However, our enthusiasm is fast disappearing in a sea of delays and broken promises.

A perfect example is the vocal opposition expressed recently to the desire of the Air Force to build a radar tracking station on Saipan. I am certain that the project would enjoy far more support if all of my people could say "I am an American."

The case of our senior citizens is particularly tragic. Many of them lived and suffered under Japanese and even German colonial rule. They were among the strongest supporters of union with the United States, but many of them are now dying without ever knowing the satisfaction and security of holding a precious American passport.

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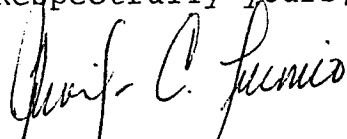
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I must at this point request, in the strongest terms possible, that the United States seek immediate termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, at least as it applies to the Northern Mariana Islands. If this means piecemeal termination, so be it. If some formula can be added providing for automatic termination for Palau when its problems are resolved, so much the better, but this should not be used as a reason for delay.

After eleven years, Mr. President, I need make no apologies for saying "now is the time," because now is long past the time that justice and fair treatment require. I look to your leadership to ensure that our self-determination to join with the United States is honored by the federal government, the United Nations and the world.

Respectfully yours,



Froilan C. Tenorio
Resident Representative