



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAR 5 1987

Mr. Felipe Q. Atalig
Senate Clerk
The Senate
Fifth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Mr. Atalig:

President Reagan has asked that I respond to your letter of January 6, 1987, with which you enclosed a copy of Senate Resolution No. S-31, entitled, "A Senate Resolution Requesting President Ronald Reagan to Resolve the Controversy Regarding the Issuance of U. S. Passports to the Citizens of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

We in the Federal government are anxious to clear up any ambiguities that may have impeded the conferring of United States citizenship in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Accordingly, we are developing language to resolve the problem. Please be assured that as soon as the language is perfected, we will make it available to you and other interested persons in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sincerely,

Signed Rick Montoya

Richard T. Montoya
Assistant Secretary
Territorial and International Affairs