



[DRAFT LETTERS TO CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBER IN RESPONSE TO THEIR LETTER OF APRIL 28, 1988 ON THE NORTHERN MARIANAS]

Dear [Mr. Chairman/Senator]:

Thank you for your letter of April 28 to the President on implementation of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

~~Your letter asked that the President intervene with the Department of Justice concerning implementation of Section 301 of the Covenant, relating to U.S. citizenship, and that the President appoint a special representative under Section 902 of the Covenant. The issue you raised concerning citizenship may be affected by the April 11, 1988 decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in De Mesa v. Castro. On the question of the special representative, I am advised that the Covenant does not mandate the appointment of a special representative more often than once every ten years, but that it allows the appointment of one at any time.~~

Because the issues your letter raised involve a number of Cabinet Departments, I have asked the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a detailed response to your letter in coordination with the affected Departments.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

Alan M. Kranowitz
Assistant to the President