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MAY 26 1988

Honorable J. Bennett Johnston
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6150

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your request to the President of April 28, 1988, cosigned by Senator McClure. The President has asked that I respond to your letter regarding problems which arose in granting United States citizenship to certain residents of the Northern Mariana Islands and the appointment of the Special Representative to the President for consultations pursuant to section 902 of the covenant.

On May 13th, the President announced the appointment of Deputy Under Secretary of the Interior Becky Norton Dunlop as his Special Representative. I am advised that Ms. Dunlop has already held meetings with officials of the Office of Territorial and International Affairs and other Federal agencies.

Regarding the citizenship issue, an agreement in principle has been reached between officials of the Department of Justice and representatives of the Commonwealth. Legal officials on both sides are now in the process of placing such an agreement into written form.

We sincerely share your desire to resolve any differences in the mutually-beneficial relationship that was established under the terms of the covenant.

Please let me know when I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

IDENT. LTR TO M-CLURE Signed |

Gordon Wheeler
Associate Director for
Legislative Affairs

bcc: NRD/I Official File
NRD/I Chron
DO Records (OMB #028029)
Mr. Wheeler
White House Liaison, 91 OEOB, #579808
General Counsel
Mr. Dawson
Mr. Gibbons
Mr. Cogswell
Ms. DeBlasi

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DEC:110,69 (88) Ltr to Hon. Bennett Johnston