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U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

June 14, 1988

Honorable Ron de Lugo
Chairman
Subcommittee on Insular and
International Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of April 26, 1988, to the President of the United States. In your correspondence you state a view relative to the interpretation of Section 301 of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America and urge the Department of Justice to adopt this view. More specifically, it is your opinion that the decision of the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands in Dela Cruz v. United States, Civil Action No. 87-0007 and Arriola v. United States, Civil Action No. 87-0009, in which a certain class of individuals born in the Northern Mariana Islands who were under the age of 18 on November 3, 1986, were declared to be United States citizens, should also apply in the case of individuals who are 18 years of age or older.

There are currently pending in the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands several lawsuits which raise the issue stated in your correspondence. In light of this development, it would be inappropriate to discuss the merits of this pending litigation.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Boyd
Acting Assistant Attorney General