

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
January 21, 1997

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I read your letter regarding Guam's commonwealth status with great interest, and I share many of the positions you expressed in your well-reasoned analysis.

Recently I met with the Governor of Guam to discuss the pace and direction of the negotiations. We agreed on the need to move quickly to resolve several key questions involving the territory's political status. As you point out in your letter, the issues are complex and sensitive. I am aware of Guam's aspirations for self-government. At the same time, we must satisfy federal concerns at the policy, legislative and constitutional levels.

I am prepared to provide sustained attention from the Executive Branch to these negotiations. A successful outcome requires coordination among many agencies and extensive consultations with Congress. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the coming months as we move the Guam issue toward a conclusion that will be satisfactory to all involved.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Don Young  
Chairman  
Committee on Resources  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0201