



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

CRIPA Investigation, Northern Mariana Islands



PC-MP-0002-0002

April 10, 1998

The Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio
Governor of Northern Mariana Islands
Saipan, MP 96950

Re: Correctional Facilities of the Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Dear Governor Tenorio:

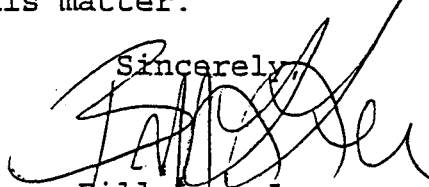
I am writing to inform you that the United States Department of Justice is undertaking an investigation of conditions at the Correctional Facilities of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"), including the correctional complex on Saipan, and the facilities on Tinian and Rota, pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 *et seq.*, and the Pattern or Practice of Police Misconduct Provision of the Crime Bill of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141.

The purpose of the investigation is to determine whether the conditions at the CNMI facilities violate the constitutional rights of the individuals confined in them. The investigation will focus specifically on allegations concerning poor sanitation and hygiene, inadequate fire-safety, inadequate medical and mental health care, and failure to provide adequate protection from harm, but it is not limited to those areas. In initiating this investigation, we have not prejudged that the CNMI's correctional facilities violate individuals' constitutional rights. If any violations are found, however, we will confer with you and your staff concerning appropriate corrective actions.

We will endeavor to coordinate this investigation with relevant officials of the Department of Public Safety. As part of our investigation, we plan to tour the CNMI correctional facilities with our expert consultants from April 23 to 25, 1998. Before the tour of the facilities, we would welcome an opportunity to discuss this investigation with you or a member of your staff, either telephonically before April 23, or in person

when we arrive in Saipan on April 23. Please feel free to contact Robert Moosy, the attorney assigned to this case, at (202) 514-6247, to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



Bill Lann Lee

Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Frederick Black, Esquire
United States Attorney
District of Guam and
Northern Mariana Islands

Mr. Eduardo Gonzalez
Director
United States Marshals Service

Mr. Robert Dunlap
Acting Attorney General

Mr. Charles W. Ingram, Jr.
Commissioner of Public Safety



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April 10, 1998

The Honorable Eduardo Gonzalez
Director
United States Marshals Service
600 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Correctional Facilities of the Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

I wish to advise you that we are investigating conditions of confinement at the Correctional Facilities of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"), including the correctional complex on Saipan, and the facilities on Tinian and Rota, pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1997 *et seq.*, and the Pattern or Practice of Police Misconduct Provision of the Crime Bill of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141. We have discussed this investigation with members of your staff, who inform us that the Marshals Service has a contract with the CNMI to house approximately ten federal pretrial detainees in the Saipan complex.

The purpose of the investigation is to determine whether the conditions at the CNMI facilities violate the constitutional rights of the individuals confined in them. If you have received any complaints regarding these facilities, please advise us.

We will cooperate fully with the Marshals Service in this matter and will consult with you regarding the status of our investigation. If you have any questions, please contact Robert Moosy, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 514-6247.

Sincerely,

Bill Lann Lee
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Mr. Joseph T. Frey
Chief
Prisoner Operations
Prisoner Services Division

cc: Lorraine