

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS K. CROWE, P.C.**

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March 4, 1997

MAR 4 1997

**BY MESSENGER**

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Dkt. Nos. 96-45 and 96-61; Notice of Ex Parte Meeting

Dear Mr. Caton:

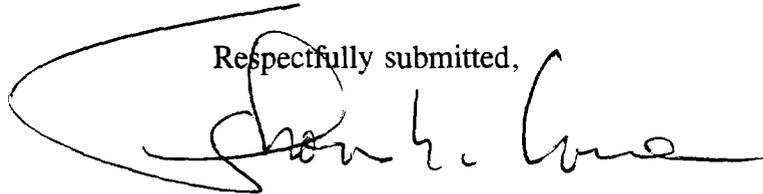
On Monday, March 3, 1997, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Commonwealth"), Dave Ecret, the Special Assistant to the Governor for Telecommunications and Utilities, and myself, counsel for the Office of the Governor, met with Daniel Gonzalez, legal advisor to Commissioner Chong, and Anthony Dale, intern to Commissioner Chong's office, to review universal service and rate integration issues concerning the Commonwealth which are currently pending in the above-referenced dockets. During the meeting we discussed the current status of rate integration and universal issues including universal service support for health care providers, support for toll-free 800 services in the Commonwealth, the interim use of paid access 880 dialing, and the definition of "insular areas."

This ex parte notice is being filed in the Office of the Secretary on March 4, 1997, and should be included in the public record.

Mr. William A. Caton  
March 4, 1997  
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Please direct any questions to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas K. Crowe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" that loops back under the rest of the name.

Thomas K. Crowe,  
Counsel for the Commonwealth  
of the Northern Mariana Islands

cc: Daniel Gonzalez  
Anthony Dale