

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 26, 1978

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright
Ccrpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Doctor Garcia:

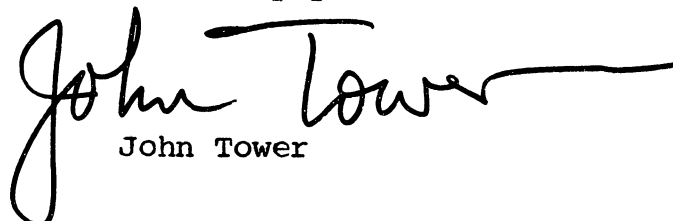
I do not believe it is in the interests of the United States to accept any proposed treaty with the government of Panama that would require us to relinquish our rights as owner, operator and defender of this international waterway. The treaties now before the Senate are, in my view, nether necessary nor desirable agreements.

Among the many difficult foreign policy problems confronting the United States today, I do not consider the situation with respect to Panama one that requires us to offer their government the generous terms embodied in the treaties agreed to by the negotiators for the United States, Mr. Sol Linowitz and Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker. This is telling evidence, in my view, of the seriously misplaced priorities in the Carter Administration's approach to international affairs.

The Committee on Armed Services, on which I have the privilege of serving as the ranking Republican member, will in the months ahead conduct a careful study of the potential impact of the proposed treaties on our overall security program and our national maritime strategy. However, my own review of these circumstances has already led me to conclude that I will oppose ratification at such time as the Senate moves to consider these treaties as required by the Constitution.

Thank you for taking time to apprise me of your concern. If I may be of any assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,



John Tower

JT/sf