

July 23, 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Subject: Meeting with Jack Weiss, Legislative Assistant to Senator Johnston

I met Jack Weiss today for an initial informal discussion regarding the current status of the Marianas negotiations. Mr. Weiss worked for this firm as a summer associate a few years ago and is currently employed as one of three legislative assistants to Senator Johnston, Chairman of the Territories and Insular Affairs Subcommittee and the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Mr. Weiss is very friendly to the firm generally and is ready and willing to be of assistance to us in connection with our representation of the Marianas. This memorandum will summarize the substance of our discussion.

(1) Mr. Weiss reports that several people are being interviewed for the position as staff assistant to the Senate Subcommittee, which was previously occupied by Mr. Gamble. The decision on this personnel matter will be made shortly and Mr. Weiss will inform me of who has been selected. He expressed his view that the person selected will probably be someone who has not had previous experience either with the Senate or in the general field of territories.

(2) I gave Mr. Weiss copies of the Joint Communique and the statement before the Trusteeship Council on behalf of the Commission. I described these materials generally to Mr. Weiss and encouraged him to distribute them to the members of the Subcommittee if Senator Johnston believes that this would be appropriate. I said that I was available to meet with Senator Johnston at any time if he and Mr. Weiss thought that this would be useful. Mr. Weiss' first reaction was that such a conversation might be deferred but he promised to check with the Senator and give me some reaction.

(3) Mr. Weiss did not know whether Senator Johnston or any members of the Senate Subcommittee had been briefed by Ambassador Williams or his representatives since the recent negotiations in Saipan. He said that he would check this out and let me know.

Mr. Weiss and I discussed generally the areas covered in the Joint Communique. Because Mr. Weiss has been on duty for only a few weeks, he does not really have any

01-04745

particular insight or knowledge of the kinds of problems which we may encounter when and if a proposed status agreement comes to Congress for approval. He believes that his Senator will be primarily concerned with the military aspects of the settlement and will rely heavily on the recommendation in this regard of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Weiss reports that Senator Johnston does have a considerable interest in Micronesia. The Subcommittee is a low priority one, however, as evidenced by the fact that Senator Johnston is in his first term. Mr. Weiss is going to try and carve this area out as his own, if this can be arranged with his fellow legislative assistants and Senator Johnston. If he is successful in doing this, it will be very advantageous for us. Mr. Weiss and I promised to keep in touch and to talk again about a visit with the Senator, perhaps sometime in September.

H. P. Willens