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May 9, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FILE

SUBJECT: Conversation with James Bierne

I spoke to James Bierne, Senator Jackson's Assistant for Territorial Affairs, this morning to learn whether he had discussed with the Senator the lease/purchase issue. Mr. Bierne told me that he had seen Senator Jackson very briefly on this topic, and that the Senator seemed to have no strong views either way. Senator Jackson certainly did not say that a lease would not be acceptable under any circumstances.

Mr. Bierne said that they will wait to see what comes out of the negotiations before making a final decision. He pointed out that the wording of the agreement, in terms of providing protections to the United States, may be a very important factor in determining whether the agreement is acceptable to Senator Jackson.

Michael S. Helfer



cc: Howard P. Willens

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