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August 30, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR MESSRS. LAPIN AND CARTER

Subject: Marianas Political Status Commission -
Effort to Secure Foundation Support

As you know, I have made informal soundings regarding the possibility of securing foundation support for our current negotiations. Although my initial conversations with knowledgeable persons have, on the whole, been discouraging, a ray of sunlight has now appeared.

I received a call yesterday from a good friend formerly with the Ford Foundation, Paul Firstenberg, with whom I discussed the matter last week-end. Mr. Firstenberg discussed strategy with me regarding an approach to the Ford Foundation and, subsequently, took upon himself the responsibility of calling Eamon Kelly. According to Mr. Firstenberg, Mr. Kelly would be the appropriate Project Officer to consider such a proposal and is also a close friend of Mr. Firstenberg's.

Mr. Firstenberg reports that Mr. Kelly is sufficiently interested in the possibility so as to justify a direct approach by us to him. Mr. Kelly has been told that we want to pursue this matter through the appropriate channels at the Foundation but that, in the event that these efforts prove unsuccessful, Mr. Cutler and I will be making a direct approach to Mr. Bundy. This is the strategy which Mr. Firstenberg recommends and Mr. Kelly understands and accepts it completely.

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I will be calling Mr. Kelly and making an appointment with him for next week or the following week. I will want to send him some materials in advance of the meeting, including, hopefully, an eloquent version of our so-called persuasive memorandum.

H. P. Willens

cc: Mr. Cutler