

August 30, 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HELFER

Subject: Meeting of Marianas District Legislature

I learned from Dick Scott today that the current session of the Marianas District Legislature has been extended to September 8, to permit additional time for public hearings regarding the subjects of separate administration and the return of public lands. According to Mr. Scott, his office does not have any problems with the draft resolution and legislation on these subjects, but he qualified this by saying that neither the Ambassador nor Mr. Wilson had yet reviewed them.

He expressed his view that the legislation passed by the Congress of Micronesia would almost certainly be vetoed. In this connection he said that the Marianas District Administrator said that he would veto any legislation regarding the return of public land in the Marianas "unless it was in the best interest of the people." I emphasized to Mr. Scott our view that the proposed legislation was consistent with the U.S. Policy Statement and that every effort should be made by the Department and Mr. Scott's office to prevent any such veto.

 H. P. Willens

cc: Ms. O'Hara
Mr. Mode

01-10627