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November 27, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MARIANAS V FILE

SUBJECT: Conversation with Ed Archer

Archer called me today to "clear" a proposed press release concerning the fifth round of negotiations. In the course of our conversation it developed that a joint press release was going to be put out on behalf of the United States (through Alf Bergeson) and the Commission in Saipan on Friday the 29th. Archer, however, wanted to put out a press release here today. He read me the proposed release. I had several problems with it, including the fact that it stated that the United States was responding to a request by the Commission for this round of negotiation, and the fact that it implied that the draft status agreement had been prepared by the United States and was to be presented to the Commission.

I told Archer that I thought the safest course was to wait for the joint release, which could be cabled back to Washington promptly after issue. Archer agreed, noting that he will call several persons here who may be interested just to tell them that the round is going to start during the week of December 2 and that a press release will be issued on Friday.

Michael S. Helfer

cc: Howard P. Willens ✓

Also re Winkler call re Mil retention memo

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- he will call Wilson (C); a pointman will be made
- I told him re Wilson's 3/1/74 memo, a good deal of which is mil retention
- OK for me to do as above