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March 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FILE

Subject: Plebiscite Ballot

After an extended discussion with Tom Johnson on Friday, we developed the following language for the "no" alternative on the ballot:

"I vote against a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States as set forth in the Covenant, and I recognize that if Commonwealth is rejected, the Northern Mariana Islands will participate with the other districts of the Trust Territory in determining a different future political status."

Johnson subsequently called me and told me that OMSN was agreeable to this language as was the U.N. section of State. Accordingly, I did not send any recommendations directly to OMSN.

For the record, my recommendation with respect to the "yes" alternative was as follows:

"I vote for a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States as set forth in the Covenant."


Michael S. Helfer

cc: Howard P. Willens

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