



May 20 1975

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Subject: Position of Department of State re possible revision of wording of NO option of ballot for Marianas plebiscite

This memorandum for the record sets forth the understanding of this office (Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations) on the above subject.

The position was transmitted today via EA/ANP as follows:

The Department of State strongly recommends against modifying the ballot. The USG has spent many weeks in careful study of the problem and the present wording is the product of this thought. The matter should be closed. The burden is now on those who recommend a change to outline the dire circumstances which they may foresee unless a change is made. Modification of the current wording would open Pandora's box, cause confusion among the voters and increase the NO vote. Modification would also be likely to spark a movement to postpone the plebiscite by charging that so major a revision would necessitate further voter education. State is not worried about the threat of a law suit against the Plebiscite Commissioner.

MEMORANDUM