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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

October 3, 1975

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To: The Deputy Secretary

From: EA - Philip C. Habib

Your Meeting with Ambassador F. Haydn Williams
Friday, October 3, 5:00 PM

PARTICIPANTS

Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, The President's
Personal Representative for Micronesia Status
Negotiations

Charles A. Schmitz, U.S. Deputy Representative
for Micronesia Status Negotiations

The Deputy Secretary

Lester E. Edmond, Deputy Assistant Secretary, EA

John F. Knowles, Acting Director, EA/ANP (notetaker)

CHECKLIST

- Introduce Les Edmond - who has just assumed responsibility in EA for Micronesia.
- Hearings on Marianas Covenant - The Department will do everything possible to help ensure favorable Senate action.
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearings - I agree to be the Department of State's principal witness assuming my schedule will permit.
- Telephone Calls to Senators on SFRC - The Department is prepared to telephone key Senators in consultation with the Ambassador.

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SETTING

Ambassador Williams is coming in to report on the status and prospects of Congressional action on the Marianas Commonwealth Covenant and to ask for your full assistance and the full assistance of the Department in ensuring favorable Congressional action at the earliest possible time. As background for the meeting, he has written you the attached letter in which he specifically asks that you be the State witness at Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) hearings on the Covenant.

Our objective is to do whatever we can to ensure Congressional approval of the Covenant, which was negotiated on the basis of Presidential instructions in which State and other agencies concurred through the Under Secretaries' Committee.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Full background is provided in the attached letter from the Ambassador. In sum, the House of Representatives passed the Covenant by floor vote without any opposition on July 21. The Senate Interior Committee held hearings shortly thereafter and is scheduled to markup the Covenant by a heavily favorable vote today. The Covenant will then be referred for jurisdiction to both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Armed Services Committee, which will then have 30 working days in which to hold hearings and complete action. Hence SFRC hearings could be held as early as late October or as late as early December. Senator Jackson has advised the Ambassador that the Administration must not take Senate approval for granted and urged that State and other agencies provide full support in obtaining Senate approval. Deputy Secretary Clements has agreed to be the Defense Department's witness at Armed Services Committee hearings, and Ambassador Williams hopes that you will be State's witness at the SFRC hearings.

ISSUES/TALKING POINTS

1. Senate Hearings on Marianas Covenant

Ambassador Williams' Position: Senate hearings should be held at the earliest possible time. The more

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time passes, the more chance there is that opponents of the Covenant will succeed in achieving either a further postponement of final Senate action or an unfavorable Senate vote.

Our Position: We agree that the passage of time works in favor of the opponents to the Covenant.

Your Talking Points

-- The Department will do everything possible to help ensure favorable Senate action on the Covenant.

-- We will do whatever we can, in consultation with the Ambassador, to ask the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to schedule its hearings at the earliest possible time.

2. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearings

Ambassador Williams' Position: It is not at all certain that the SFRC will approve the Covenant. Committee hearings are expected to focus on UN aspects and the implications of a Marianas Commonwealth for U.S. relations with countries in the EA area and for U.S. policy in East Asia and the Pacific. It is important that State indicate to Committee members that the Covenant has the complete support of State from the standpoint of State's UN and foreign policy responsibilities.

Our Position: We agree that your appearing as witness for State would be very desirable to indicate full State support for a Marianas Covenant. EA, IO, L and H are prepared to provide you full support.

Your Talking Points

-- I agree to testify for State at the SFRC hearings, assuming my schedule will permit.

-- EA, IO, L and H will work with the Ambassador's staff in preparing Qs and As.

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-- The Department is prepared to make appropriate contacts with SFRC members and staff where feasible, in consultation with the Ambassador.

Attachment:

Letter of October 2, 1975 from Ambassador Williams to the Deputy Secretary

Drafted: *gan* EA/ANP:JFKnowles:mhs
10/3/75:x20870

IO:Ambassador Blake *WJ*
H:Mr. Goldberg *SC*
L/UNA:Mr. Stowe *gan*

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