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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building
Room 373
Washington, D.C. 20506

November 20, 1975

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Honorable Charles H. Percy
United States Senate
4321 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Percy:

Bob Ingersoll has told me of his conversation with you last night. We very much appreciate your interest and your desire to see the Marianas Covenant approved and your thought that your amendment will increase the chances of the bill being reported out favorably by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

We do hope that you will support the Administration's bill as reported out by the Senate Interior Committee. According to our information, the bill will have the support of five Senators, three Democrats and two Republicans. Two additional members appear to be leaning in our direction. If you would feel it possible to support the legislation and urge Senators Case and Javits to join you, it would seem that the total would be more than enough for it to pass.

But if it looks that passage is not likely and if you feel that your amendment would make the difference, I hope that, in introducing it, you would be willing to consider the following suggested changes to the text of your amendment:

AMENDMENT

Intended to be proposed by Mr. Percy.

H.J.RES.549, joint resolution to approve the "Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America", and for other purposes,

viz: On page 2, line 3, immediately after "That", insert the following: "(a) subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,".

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On page 2, after line 6, add the following:

(b) The approval provided for under subsection (a) of this section shall take effect upon the date of the approval by Congress of an agreement or agreements between the United States and representatives of the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands covering the future political status of the [entire] remainder of the Trust Territory in a [form that is] manner consistent with United States [international responsibilities] obligations under the United Nations Charter and Trusteeship Agreement and national interest but no later than January 1, 1978. Nothing in this joint resolution is intended by Congress to prevent or delay the institution of separate administration and constitutional government for the Northern Marianas or further progress toward self-government by any or all portions of the Trust Territory. [Nothing in this joint resolution is intended by Congress to prevent or discourage the people of the Northern Marianas from achieving self-determination either in union with the territory of Guam or with the people of the Marshall and Caroline Islands.]

Sincerely yours,

Haydn

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

P.S. I am asking Mr Schmitz to handcarry this and he and Mr Adnan de Grafton are prepared to discuss our suggested modifications with you or your staff. (4)

FHW:kkc

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