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Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretary, Program Development and Budget
From: Director of Territorial Affairs
Subject: Northern Marianas Transition Funding - \$1.5 Million

Negotiations for the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands included a commitment by the United States to provide \$1.5 million in transition funding for the Northern Mariana Islands as soon as the Covenant is approved by the United States Congress. Present plans are to submit a request for appropriation (\$1.5 million) as a supplemental attached to the FY 1977 budget transmittal to Congress. Normally action on such a supplemental does not occur until late spring. Thus it is quite likely that there would be a hiatus between Congressional approval of the Covenant in January or February and availability of transition funding in May or June.

I recommend that the Department request expedited Congressional action on the \$1.5 million for Northern Marianas transition. Such expedited action could take the form of an appropriation passed in advance of Covenant approval but made subject to such approval. The funds would thereby be made available in timely fashion.

Fred M. Zeder

