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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

O/FADRC/DR
FILES

Attention
Keep this study together.

January 16, 1976

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Copies to:

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Brenje

Dear Cliff:

I spoke yesterday about the Marianas resolution to your staff assistant, who promised to relay my concern to you. Before I leave town this morning for a conference, I want also to write you once again to urge Foreign Relations approval of the Marianas Covenant legislation, which I understand is scheduled for Tuesday mark-up.

As I testified before the Committee on November 5, 1975, and wrote you on November 18, the Department of State considers the approval of the Covenant an important step which serves our national interests and foreign policy. It advances the fulfillment of our international obligations, including our pledge to give the people of the Northern Marianas and the rest of the Trust Territory the right to choose freely their own political future.

In our view, rejection or delay of the Marianas resolution would create problems for the United States in Micronesia by raising fundamental doubts about American intentions in the Northern Marianas and would risk undermining the pro-American leadership of the islands. We are apprehensive that a potential source of instability might be created in an area so close to Guam.

The Honorable
Clifford P. Case,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>Free</u>	DATE MAR. 5 1987
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I therefore hope that at the mark-up session scheduled for January 20 the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will recommend approval of the proposed legislation.

Very best regards.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Ingersoll

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