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January 17, 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GERARD C. SMITH

Subject: Legislative Consideration of the Marianas  
Covenant

As I mentioned Friday, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will be meeting Tuesday, January 20, to consider the proposed Covenant. We understand also that the Armed Services Committee will be meeting either the same day or shortly thereafter to do likewise. We have serious problems in both Committees.

According to Ambassador Williams' office, Senators Symington and Pearson are currently being carried in the "uncertain" category on the Foreign Relations Committee. They believe that Senator Case is going to vote against the Covenant and that Senator Percy may do likewise if his amendment is not accepted by the Committee.

With respect to the Armed Services Committee, the Ambassador's office places the following in the "uncertain" category: Senators Stennis, Symington, McIntyre, Nunn, Taft and Bartlett. They have tentatively placed Senator Culver in the negative group, although reports from his trip to Saipan suggest that he may be wavering in his opposition.

Anything you can do would be much appreciated. In view of our conversation and the current situation, the following might be productive:

- (1) A call to Senator Symington would be very useful, since we previously had heard that he was unalterably opposed to the new Commonwealth relationship.
- (2) Although Senator Javits may be preoccupied with other matters these days, a reminder call to him might be helpful.
- (3) Senator Percy seems pretty firmly committed to his amendment at this point and I leave it up to you whether you believe any further conversation there would be useful. I tend to doubt it.
- (4) A call to Senator Culver to find out his true reactions to his visit and to encourage him to support the Covenant might also be considered.

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For your convenience in reviewing the matter, I am enclosing the following materials:

- (1) A letter dated January 6, 1976, from Senator Percy to our client setting forth the Senator's current position;
- (2) Our basic anti-delay letter which we previously sent to all the members of the Armed Services Committee;
- (3) Some excerpts from the Congressional Record which give you a sense of the opposition's views;
- (4) Senator Percy's "Dear Colleague" letter of November 20, 1975, enclosing his proposed amendment;
- (5) Our client's letter dated November 19, 1975, to the Armed Services Committee regarding the impact on United States defense interests if the Covenant were rejected or delayed; and
- (6) A recent article from the Congressional Quarterly providing you comfort that we are registered lobbyists.

Thank you.

HPW

cc: Mr. Helfer

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