

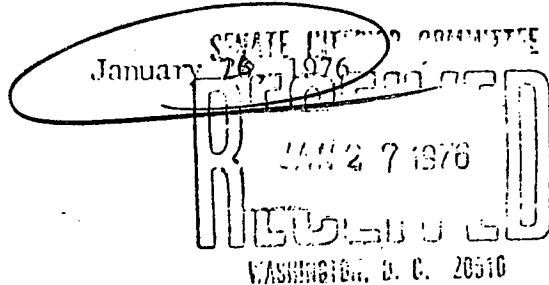
United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JAN 29 RECD

Jan 26, 1976

Handwritten initials and a large number '8'.



Dear Colleague:

You will soon be voting on H.J.Res. 549, to approve a Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States. Do you believe that it is in the best interest of the United States to rush into the acquisition of a new territory over 5,000 miles from the continental United States and the first new territory we would have acquired since the purchase of the Virgin Islands in 1917?

We would urge a more prudent and cautious approach for the following reasons:

--The United States would be exchanging a temporary Trusteeship responsibility for a permanent one whose implications have not been fully thought through.

--The United States has encouraged separatist sentiments in the Marianas and ignored the preference of the rest of Micronesia to maintain the territorial integrity of the entire Trust Territory.

--The plebiscite by which the people of the Northern Marianas approved the Covenant was flawed in that alternatives were not offered and financial benefits were tied to acceptance of the Covenant.

--The provisions in the Covenant for the acquisition of property for military purposes raises the prospect that a major military complex will be built in the Marianas without an explanation of the role envisioned for the Marianas in America's Far Eastern policy. You may recall the Administration's earlier plans for a 300 million dollar military base on Tinian.

--The separation of the Marianas from the rest of Micronesia runs counter to the will of the United Nations as expressed in General Assembly resolutions 1541 and 1514 of 1960.

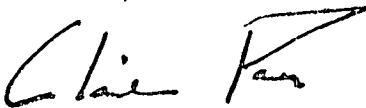
It is for these reasons that we are sponsoring the attached amendment which would defer Congressional action on the Covenant proposal until the Administration has submitted to Congress a plan for the future status of all areas of the Trust Territory. The Administration has set a target date of 1981 for drawing up arrangements for the other Trust areas and has declared its intention to implement only parts of the Covenant immediately and to delay the establishment of the Commonwealth until proposals dealing with all of the Trust Territory have been submitted to the United Nations Security Council for approval.

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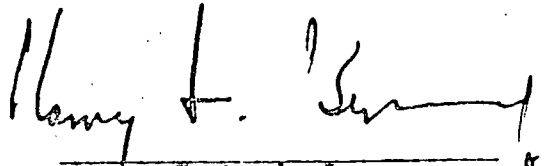
We see no reason why the Congress should not have the same opportunity as the Security Council to examine a complete package in order to weigh the implications involved in the Administration's plans for all of Micronesia and decide what it is in the interest of the United States to do.

If you agree with us and wish to co-sponsor our amendment, please contact either of us or have one of your staff members telephone Geryld B. Christianson of Senator Pell's staff at extension 4-2518 or Peter Hughes of Senator Byrd's staff at extension 4-4024.

Sincerely,



Claiborne Pell



Harry F. Byrd, Jr.

94TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. J. RES. 549

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 23, 1976

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

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## AMENDMENTS

Intended to be proposed by Mr. PELL (for himself and Mr. HARRY F. BYRD, Jr.) to H.J. Res. 549, a 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:

- 1 On page 2, beginning with line 3, strike out all through
- 2 line 14 on page 42 and insert in lieu thereof the following:
- 3 "That the Congress hereby recognizes the desires of the
- 4 people of the Northern Mariana Islands to enjoy self-deter-
- 5 mination, but declares that it is the sense of the Congress
- 6 that the obligation of the United States to promote the de-
- 7 velopment of the peoples of the Trust Territory of the Pacific
- 8 Islands toward self-government or independence can best
- 9 be accomplished by the submission to the Congress for its

Amdt. No. 1330

15692

- 1 consideration of an agreement or agreements resolving the
- 2 political status of all of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Is-
- 3 lands rather than on an individual basis.

Amend the title so as to read: "Joint resolution relating to self-government or independence for all of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands."

Amdt. No. 1330

94TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. J. RES. 549**

## AMENDMENTS

Intended to be proposed by Mr. Peir (for himself and Mr. Harry F. Byrd, Jr.) to H.J. Res. 549, a 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.

JANUARY 23, 1976

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed