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To: Ambassador Williams

Through: Mary Vance Trent

From: Adrian de Graffenried

Subject: Follow-on Actions After Senate Vote on HJR 549,
as Amended

The following is a tentative list of actions required by our office after Senate approval of the Covenant.

I. Conference Committee.

Upon Senate approval of HJR 549, as amended, the Northern Mariana Islands Covenant bill will be sent to the Conference Committee to resolve whether provisions for war claim compensation and extension of federal programs to U.S. territories will be included in the bill. Congressman Burton may press to have these sections included. Senator Johnston may press to have them excluded. OMB and/or Interior may press the White House to lobby against the bill if these provisions are included; the White House may lobby only those members of the Conference Committee or may lobby the full Congress. As these two sections involve substantial federal monies, opposition to the total bill may develop if they are included.

Recommended Action:

1. Ambassador Williams forward a letter to the White House or meet with White House officials noting the status of the bill, noting the possibility that Sections 2 & 3 may be reinserted into the bill, and requesting the White House to support the bill notwithstanding Sections 2 and 3, or at the minimum to not lobby against the bill.

2. Ambassador Williams forward a letter (or meet with)

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Senators Johnston and Burton requesting the Conference Committee not to include these provisions as part of this bill but to introduce separate legislation on these matters because the provisions have no relationship to the Covenant.

II. Presidential Action

Upon final passage of the Covenant, Presidential action is required on two matters: appointment of the members of the Commission on Federal Laws, and issuance of an Executive Order for the Department of the Interior to implement the provisions of HJR 549, as amended.

Recommended Action:

1. FHW letter to the President notifying him of action that is required of the Chief Executive
2. FHW memorandum to Scowcroft regarding: Presidential action requirements and recommending specific actions.

Separate Administration

A. Secretarial Order

Upon final approval of the Covenant, by the Congress separate administration of the Northern Mariana Islands is to be effected by a Secretarial Order issued by the Department of the Interior. Two draft Orders have been prepared. The COM and MDL have reached agreement on ^{all} matters of issue between them on separate administration and have forwarded unresolved issues to the Department of the Interior for final resolution.

B. Joint Transition Commission.

Phase I will also be instituted upon approval of the Covenant. Creation of the Joint Transition Commission is a required step in enabling the U.S. Administration to begin the implementation of the Covenant.

C. Transition Funding.

The Office of Transition Studies and Plans will also be instituted and the \$1.5 million in transition monies should be available for Phase I costs.

Recommended Action:

A. FHW send a memorandum to DOTA reconfirming the general scope of the Secretarial Order to institute Separate Administration and assure that provision is included for relocation of the capital and transition assistance for the Micronesians similar to that provided for the Northern Mariana Islands.

B. FHW send a memorandum to DOTA recommending an agenda for the Joint Transition Commission and proposing personnel for the Resident Commission^{ll} and for the Office of Transition Studies and Plans.

C. FHW send a memorandum to DOTA (after receiving an answer to the letter sent to Secretary Kleppe) following-up on the availability of transition funds.