

ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

General Counsel

July 10 1976 24

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Mr. James F. C. Hyde, Jr.
Chief, Resources-Defense
International Branch
Legislative Reference Division
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20525

Dear Mr. Hyde:

Subject: ACTION views on Sections 2 and 3 of
H. J. Res. 549, concerning approval of
the covenant to establish a Commonwealth
of the Northern Mariana Islands in
Political Union with the United States

This will confirm the verbal clearance requested by
OMB on this Resolution, which you received yesterday
from R. S. Hollingshead, Director of Planning, acting
for me in my absence. Our comments, as requested, are
limited to Sections 2 and 3; only the latter seems
likely to affect programs of this Agency. ACTION has
no objection to enactment of these two Sections.

Section 2 authorizes, but does not require, the
President to extend various types of Federal assistance
to the Mariana Islands District (which we assume is the
same as the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas) and
to the other Districts of the Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands. At present, ACTION volunteer programs
in these two areas are supported only by the Peace
Corps, the international arm of ACTION. Although we
are authorized by Title II of the Domestic Volunteer
Service Act (DVSA), 42 USC 4951, to also support certain

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volunteer programs for Older Americans in the Pacific Trust Territory, we have never done so. We are not now authorized to conduct or support volunteer programs in the Pacific Trust Territory under Titles I and III of DVSA, which primarily include VISTA, the University Year for ACTION (UYA), and our Business Volunteer Services programs. It is possible that the President might wish to extend the availability of these domestic programs to either the Northern Marianas, the other Trust Territory Islands, or to both, either in lieu of, or in addition to, the Peace Corps. Recommendations as to such Presidential action would be premature now, we believe, but we are studying the alternatives and should be in a position to make such recommendations at an appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Harry Hogan

Harry Hogan
Assistant Director
for Policy and Planning

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