

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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*File 1222
JMN
a. Chen*

MEMCON

Subject: Meeting on Marianas Covenant Tactics

Participants:

Ambassador Haydn Williams
James M. Wilson, Jr.

Congressman Burton
Congresswoman Mink
Adrian Winkel

During the course of a rather disjointed meeting which lasted over two hours, Burton made the following points regarding the Covenant.

- He felt that Section 803(b) should have the same base period for constant dollars as Section 704(c); i.e., July 1, 1974.

- He felt an effort might have been made to give more benefits to Guam as they were given to the Northern Marianas.

- He felt that Congressional liberals would have no problem with limitation of Congressional powers in Section 105 or with Section 805 or with the amounts of money proposed; the conservatives, he said, don't count.

- He was concerned about getting adequate education benefits to the Northern Marianas if they had to be shared with Guam. We said this would be up to Congress under Sections 703(a) and 502(a)(1).

Mrs. Mink was concerned about a number of other points.

- She read the de Graffenried memorandum on Article 501 and had no questions.

- She felt citizenship and other benefits should precede the end of the trusteeship, and did not seem to understand the reasons why the trusteeship should not be terminated piecemeal (a memo for Winkel is promised).

- She still doesn't like the military requirements and has trouble reconsidering these with her desire to give the Northern Marianas what they want.

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- She was concerned that Congress wouldn't be able to make changes in the Covenant but could only accept or reject, albeit with suggestions for changes in the latter event. Burton suggested Congress could add to the Covenant (though presumably not contradict it) and in particular might choose to give the Northern Marianas more than it got under Covenant (but not less).

A long discussion of how the Covenant should be acted upon by Congress was not entirely ^{con}clusive, though Burton seemed to lean in the end towards a formal briefing in early April after Spring recess, with formal hearings to follow official submission of the Covenant to the Congress for its approval following a favorable vote on the plebiscite in the Marianas.

On the subject of contacts meanwhile with other committees, Burton's views were also mixed. He saw no problem of talking informally with "Doc" Morgan (Foreign Affairs) and Sam Yates (Appropriations Sub-Committee), but felt Mel Price (Armed Services) was still too new and unsure of his position. (Price could be included to turn it over to his interested "trogledyte" staff, according to Mr. Burton). Judiciary should be left alone. He did not take to the suggestion for an informal briefing of Committee Chairman sponsored by Burton.

