

[Handwritten signature]

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL 1884

ACTION

WBE

March 27, 1975

WH

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: LES JANKA *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Bipartisan Leadership Briefing
on the Marianas Agreement

On March 13th, I convened a "mini-LIG" meeting to permit Ambassador Williams to brief us on the progress of the Marianas Commonwealth Agreement and prospects for its acceptance by the Congress.

The next step in the approval process is a late June U. N. observed plebiscite in the Marianas where the people will decide whether to accept or reject the Covenant. If they accept it, the Covenant then goes to both Houses of the U. S. Congress for approval. The President on March 19 told the two Marianas representatives he would support it with Congress.

Throughout the negotiations Ambassador Williams consulted closely with the leaders in the Senate and House Interior Committees, under whose jurisdiction approval of the Covenant falls. *Hayden*

On White House instructions, and at the request of the Committee Chairmen, however, substantive contacts on the negotiations were limited to these two committees, with the appropriation subcommittees informed as necessary. Other individual members of the Congress were brought in only to the extent they asked questions or expressed an interest.

Since signature of the Covenant, opposition to it has surfaced in the Senate in the form of an attack led by Gary Hart on \$1.5 million requested for transitional studies in the Marianas. The final vote on the issue was 47 to 39 in favor.

In the House Territorial and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, Chairman Burton is favorably inclined towards the Covenant, but attacks along the same line as Hart's can still be expected. A hard push may thus be necessary in both Houses to get approval.



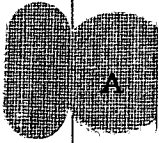
RECEIVED
AUG 26 1975
CENTRAL FILES

Up to this time the leadership in neither House has been briefed on what is involved. Such a briefing by Ambassador Williams during the President's next leadership meeting would be highly desirable as an initial step in a wider Congressional campaign. Any Congressional expressions of support that might be stimulated by such a meeting would, of course, be very helpful in the June plebiscite.

Jack Froebe concurs. *JF*

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memo to Max Friedersdorf at Tab A recommending that a briefing by Ambassador Williams be added to the agenda for the next (or at least an early) Bipartisan Leadership Meeting.



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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: Bipartisan Leadership Briefing on
the Marianas Agreement

After two years of negotiations, a Covenant was signed in February which, when approved by Congress, will provide Commonwealth status for the Northern Marianas Islands, the first addition to U.S. territory since 1917. A copy of the Agreement was presented to the President on March 19 when he met with two Marianas representatives.

The next step in the approval process is a late June U. N. observed plebiscite in the Marianas where the people will decide whether to accept or reject the Covenant. If they accept it, the Covenant then goes to both Houses of the U. S. Congress for approval. The President on March 19 said he would support it with Congress.

Throughout the negotiations Ambassador Haydn Williams, the President's personal representative for micronesia status negotiations, consulted closely with the leaders in the Senate and House Interior Committees, under whose jurisdiction approval of the Covenant falls.

On White House instructions, and at the request of the Committee Chairmen, however, substantive contacts on the negotiations were limited to these two committees, with the appropriation subcommittees informed as necessary. Other individual members of the Congress were brought in only to the extent they asked questions or expressed an interest.

Since signature of the Covenant, opposition to it has surfaced in the Senate in the form of an attack led by Gary Hart on \$1.5 million requested for transitional studies in the Marianas. The final vote on the issue was 47 to 39 in favor.

In the House, Territorial and Insular Affairs Chairman Burton is favorably inclined towards the Covenant, but attacks along the same line as Hart's can still be expected. A hard push may thus be necessary in both Houses to get approval.

Up to this time the leadership in neither House has been briefed on what is involved. Such a briefing by Ambassador Williams during an early Presidential meeting with the Bipartisan Leadership would be highly desirable as an initial step in a wider Congressional campaign. Therefore, we are requesting that a briefing by Ambassador Williams be included on the agenda for an early Leadership meeting. Of course, the Chairmen and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Interior Committees should be invited to the meeting.

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR		
3	27	3	27	18	7501884	

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: *Jankka* KISSINGER, H _____ S/S _____ REFERENCE: _____ CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

KISSINGER _____ COLBY, W _____ OTHER _____ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT

SCOWCROFT *X* _____ SCHLESINGER, J _____ C _____ LOU NO FORN NODIS

DAVIS _____ ST EX SEC _____ S _____ EYES ONLY EXDIS

TS _____ SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: *Status rpt on Bipartisan Leadership Briefing on Marianas Agreement*

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION		REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO	
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT			MEMO FOR HAK (_____)
STAFF SECRETARY			MEMO FOR PRES (_____)
FAR EAST			REPLY FOR (_____)
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			APPROPRIATE ACTION (_____)
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA			MEMO _____ TO _____ (_____)
EUROPE / CANADA			RECOMMENDATIONS (_____)
LATIN AMERICA			JOINT MEMO (_____)
UNITED NATIONS			REFER TO _____ FOR: (_____)
ECONOMIC			ANY ACTION NECESSARY? (_____)
SCIENTIFIC			CONCURRENCE (_____)
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			DUE DATE:
NSC PLANNING			COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL			<i>hand carried by Jankka</i>
OCEANS POLICY			<i>INDEX: MICRONESIA</i>
INTELLIGENCE			

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
3/27		Script	A	Sgn memo to Friedlander	(4/08)
8/5			C	Final action unknown	
				Status of org unknown	
8/5			C	OBE / Status org unknown	
				REC'D FROM <i>WH</i> ON <i>8/5</i> FOR FILE.	
				NO INDICATION OF INITIAL OR ADDRESSEE'S	
				FOLLOW UP ACTION, INITIAL OR DISTRIBUTION	

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH _____

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: _____

NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____

CROSS REF W/ _____

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: _____ FOLDER: _____

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS: _____

AUG 11 1975 BY *AOC*

CRT ID: _____ SA SF

OPEN _____ HP NS

CLOSE _____ WH EP

PA _____

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