

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

April 3, 1975

Memorandum for the Record

Subject: Congressional Consultation on Marianas Plebiscite Proclamation and Secretarial Orders

I called Adrian Winkel and Jim Bierne today to inform them of current plans regarding the Marianas plebiscite and covered the following:

- a. Administration decision to appoint a prominent American as Plebiscite Commissioner. I promised to advise them as soon as the White House had cleared the appointment.
- b. Duties of the Plebiscite Commissioner so far as voting and the education program went, emphasizing the fair and objective nature proceeding and the impartial U.S. role.
- c. Appointment of Craley as Executive Director and the responsibility of the Trust Territory and District to provide administrative support.
- d. June 17 date for plebiscite and the wording of the ballot.
- e. Composition and functions of the Plebiscite Advisory Committee and Voter Registration Board and Appellate Court.

Bierne expressed satisfaction with the arrangements as did Winkel, although the latter at first expressed some misgivings on the wording of the ballot which he said seemed to favor the vote for the Covenant. Winkel seemed considerably mollified, however, when I explained to him (a) the USUN views on need for unity as an issue (b) the fact that the plebiscite education program would have the task of explaining in detail what a "yes" or "no" vote meant, and (c) the expectation that in the event of a "no" vote the Marianas people would vote thereafter in the Congress of Micronesia backed referendum to choose between various status alternatives other than the Covenant and that this would be explained well in advance.

