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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL

GDS

ACTION

May 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:

W. R. SMYSER

SUBJECT:

Proposed Call on the Vice President
for Two Prominent Mariana Islands
Political Leaders -- President Santos
and Senator Borja

At Tab A is a draft Schedule Proposal from you to the Vice President recommending that he receive two prominent Mariana Islands political leaders -- President of the Marianas District Legislature Vicente N. Santos and Senator Olympio T. Borja, for a brief courtesy call.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the draft Schedule Proposal to the Vice President at Tab A.

*Disapproved
by General
Gowers 5/23
RM*

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RECEIVED
MAY 23 1975
STATE DEPT



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

DATE:

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

VIA: Ann Whitman

CONFIDENTIAL GDS

MEETING: Courtesy call on you by two prominent Mariana Islands political leaders -- President of the Marianas District Legislature Vicente N. Santos and Senator Olympio T. Borja.

DATE: May 23 or 24, 1975.

PURPOSE: To reaffirm the importance we attach to our prospective commonwealth relationship with the Marianas on the eve of the plebiscite on the Commonwealth Agreement.

FORMAT: - The Old Executive Office Building office
- 10 minutes
- The President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams

SPEECH MATERIAL: Talking points would be provided.

PRESS COVERAGE: The call would be announced in advance.

STAFF: Secretary Kissinger

RECOMMEND: Secretary Kissinger

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: To the best of our knowledge you have not met either President Santos or Senator Borja.

BACKGROUND: Your receiving these two Marianas political leaders would be an effective demonstration of the high importance we attach to our new Commonwealth Agreement with the Mariana Islands. The Agreement will be voted on in

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a plebiscite on June 17. The Mariana Islands, one of the six districts in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, three years ago formally opted for a closer relationship with the U. S. than that desired by the other five districts. If the Agreement is approved by the plebiscite, the Mariana Islands, of which Guam is geographically a part, will become the first new U. S. territorial acquisition since 1971 when we acquired the Virgin Islands.

We expect the plebiscite to be approved, but we cannot take this outcome for granted. A Carolinian minority in the Marianas is vigorously opposing the Commonwealth Agreement, and there is also some opposition in the United States Senate and in the United Nations.

President Santos and Senator Borja have long been identified as two of the strongest supporters of a commonwealth arrangement with the U. S. President Santos is Vice Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, which negotiated the Agreement with us, and Senator Borja is a former member of that body. Your meeting with them would boost the chances for a strong positive majority vote in the plebiscite.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____

OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

May 16, 1975

3522

Action Memorandum

To : W. R. Smyser, Senior Staff Member, National Security Council

From : *F.W.* Haydn Williams, The President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations

Subject : Appointment for Marianas Leadership to see Vice President Rockefeller during the week of May 19-23, 1975

Action Recommended

That the Vice President meet with President Vicente N. Santos of the Marianas District Legislature and Senator Olympio T. Borja, the senior Senator in the Congress of Micronesia from the Mariana Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Senator Borja is a former member and President Santos is a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, which recently signed the "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America."

Discussion:

Senator Borja has been a leader in the Marianas movement towards Commonwealth. He is the senior Senator from the Mariana Islands District, having been elected to the first Congress in 1965 and reelected since then. Borja was born in 1930 and attended the University of Sydney, Australia and the Blackstone School of Law in the United States. He is a member of the Popular Party in the Mariana Islands which lost the most recent election. He was not up for reelection last year. Senator Borja is in Washington to petition the U.S. Congress for additional assistance to the people of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls in the Marshall Islands, who suffered radiation poisoning in 1957.

President Santos has been a member and President of the Marianas District Legislature since the first legislature convened in 1963. He has been influential in the Popular Party and in the conduct of the negotiations leading to Commonwealth. In this regard, he is the Vice-Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission. President Santos is in Washington en route to the United Nations Trusteeship Council meeting in New York.

It would be most appropriate and helpful to United States interests for the Vice President to see President Santos and Senator Borja during their visit to the United States. The Marianas have been asking for

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the last 20 years to become part of the United States. The new Covenant, if approved by the people of the Marianas in the plebiscite scheduled for this June 17 and by the United States Congress, will bring the Northern Marianas under United States sovereignty, constituting the first addition to American territory since the Virgin Islands were acquired in 1917. It will also be the first time that a people under a United Nations Trusteeship have asked to merge with the Administering power.

There is already some opposition to the proposed arrangement within the Marianas, the rest of Micronesia, the United Nations and the United States. Despite widespread popularity of the Commonwealth idea among the people of the Marianas, the results of the plebiscite cannot be taken for granted. While the United States should not appear to be conducting a hard-sell of commonwealth status for the Marianas, the publicity likely to be given in the Marianas to reception by the Vice President of President Santos and Senator Borja would give the Commonwealth Covenant a welcome boost. It is moreover both normal and fitting for the Vice President to make a public gesture of acknowledgement and welcome to those senior members of the Senate of Micronesia who are acknowledged popular leaders.

If a short time (5 - 10 minutes) could be found in the Vice President's schedule, a brief picture-taking session could be arranged. It would be fitting if the principal U.S. negotiator, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative could also be present.

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD			LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION O
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	7503522	
5	20	5	23	17		

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

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SCOWCROFT _____ SCHLESINGER, J _____ EYES ONLY EXDIS

DAVIS _____ ST EX SEC _____ S _____ CODEWORD

TS _____ SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: Proposed call on Vice Pres for two prominent Mariana Islands Political Leaders

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
				ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT
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				<u>Index: Name</u>
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE				

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
5/22	—	scowcroft	X	scowcroft for all	
5/23	—	—	—	scowcroft disapproved memo	
5/23	—	Smyser	S	Any further action (5/26)	
			C	NO FURTHER ACTION	

DISPATCH _____

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: _____

NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____

CROSS REF W/ _____

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: X FOLDER: _____

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS: _____

JUN 18 1975 BY AOC

CRT ID: _____ SA SF

OPEN _____ HP NS

CLOSE 4 WH EP

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