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# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE .

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ACTION

June 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

Presidential Statement on Northern

Marianas Plebiscite

With all votes counted except for absentee ballots, the Northern Mariana Islands plebiscite shows 78 percent in favor of a commonwealth relationship with the United States. This is a more favorable outcome than had been expected.

We have prepared a Presidential statement welcoming the result of the plebiscite (Tab A) and would like to release it as soon as possible today.

Paul Theis has cleared the text of the proposed statement.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the release of the statement at Tab A.

APPROVE A

DISAPPROVE

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## DRAFT PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to extend to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands my personal greetings and to convey to them my pleasure with the results of the plebiscite held on June 17, 1975.

I have been in formed that a substantial majority have voted in favor of the Commonwealth Covenant in free and open balloting observed by the United Nations and preceded by a fair and impartial education program. I wish personally to congratulate and commend all of those who were responsible for the conduct of the plebiscite, including the Plebiscite Commissioner and his staff, the Voter Registration Board and the Plebiscite Advisory Committee.

The people of the Northern Marianas have now spoken. The next step will be consideration of the Covenant by the Congress of the United States. I intend to submit without delay the Covenant to the Congress with my strong endorsement for its early favorable action. It is my earnest hope that we may look forward to further steps in the near future which will move the people of the Northern Mariana Islands still closer to the long-desired ultimate goal of political union with the United States. I know the American people join with me in sending to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands our warmest regards.

### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

#### ACTION

June 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:

W. R. SMYSE

SUBJECT:

Presidential Statement on Northern

Marianas Plebiscite

With all ballots counted except for absentee ballots, the vote in the Northern Mariana Islands plebiscite shows 78 percent in favor of a commonwealth relationship with the United States. This is an even more favorable vote than had been expected.

We have prepared a Presidential statement welcoming the results of the plebiscite (Tab A) and we would like to be able to release this as soon as possible today.

Paul Theis has cleared the text of the proposed statement.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

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