

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

C.F.
FG317

CONFIDENTIAL

July 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: CATHIE BENNETT ^{CPB}
JOHN A. FROEBE ^{JAF}

SUBJECT: Presidential Meeting to Discuss the
Mariana Islands Resolution

Attached is a draft Schedule Proposal for a Presidential meeting next week with Congressional leaders and key committee members to discuss the upcoming Mariana Islands Resolution. Interest in such a meeting has been expressed by both Congressman Burton, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and by Ambassador Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations.

The purpose of such a meeting is to express Presidential concern for the passage of the Joint Resolution. The House will begin hearings on the Resolution on Monday, July 14, and the full House is expected to vote on July 21. The Senate will take up the measure on July 23. Such a meeting is considered necessary in light of increasing opposition during the last month to the Marianas' acquisition. Congressman Burton believes that passage of the Resolution is no longer assured without some explicit show of Presidential support.

Although the Marianas Resolution is tentatively on the agenda for the Thursday leadership meeting, Ambassador Williams thinks that this is not the proper forum in which to address the issue in other than a cursory way, i. e., the President might mention his desire for GOP support on the issue. The Ambassador feels, and Chairman Burton would agree, that the matter should be addressed in a meeting at which representatives of both parties, as well as key committees, are in attendance.

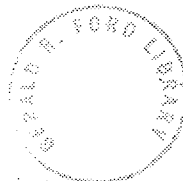
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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/96, State Dept. Guidelines

By lit, NARA, Date 10/99

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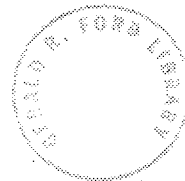
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The meeting, held concurrently with House hearings next week, would strengthen Congressional support of the Resolution and counter critics' attempts to foment a wave of opposition. The preemptive approach would seem more effective than to try to reverse an adverse Congressional tide if one began to run against us during the House hearings.

As the Covenant is rather complex, Ambassador Williams would attend the Presidential meeting to respond to any questions of a technical nature that might be raised.

There will also be a group of delegates from the Mariana Islands in Washington next week for the Congressional hearings. Ambassador Williams has asked whether it would be appropriate for the President to meet with them for a few minutes, perhaps with some Congressional members. We feel this would complement other efforts in support of this matter next week.



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MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FOR THE FILE

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LETTER, MEMO, ETC.

TO:

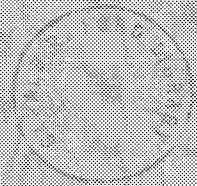
W. Friederichs

FROM:

Cathie Bennett / John A. Froebe

SUBJECT:

Presidential Meeting to discuss
the Mariana Islands Resolution



CORRESPONDENCE FILED CENTRAL FILES - CONFIDENTIAL FILE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Mrs.  Davis,

This is per our conversation yesterday in respect to a draft schedule proposal for the President to meet with Congressional leaders on the Marianas Resolution.

Attached is a memo from Mr. Froebe and me to Max Friedersdorf explaining why such a meeting is felt necessary as well as a draft proposal containing similar background information.

Mr. Smyser, Taylor, and MacFarland have been consulted and agree.

Cathie

MEMORANDUM

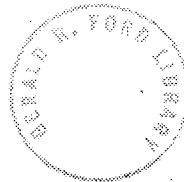
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: President's July 10 Meeting with
Republican Party Congressional
Leadership

I have attached at Tab A brief talking points on the Marianas Resolution for possible inclusion in the briefing memorandum for the President's meeting with the Republican Party Congressional leadership scheduled for Thursday, July 10, at 8:00 a. m. in the Cabinet Room.



COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

On July 1, you transmitted to the Congress a proposed Joint Resolution to provide for Congressional approval of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This will make the Mariana Islands, of which Guam is geographically a part, our first territorial acquisition since the Swains Islands in 1925. The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs will begin hearings on the Resolution on Monday, July 14. The full House is expected to vote on the Resolution on Monday, July 21. The Senate Interior Committee will take up the measure on July 23.

Both Ambassador Williams, your Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, and Congressman Burton, Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and our mainstay in the House throughout the negotiations, believe that your support of the Resolution could prove decisive. During the last month, there has been increasing criticism in Congress and the press of the Marianas' acquisition, and it is no longer certain that passage of the Joint Resolution is assured without some show of support. Charges of American neo-imperialism and of new and more permanent U.S. security involvement in Asia have been the focus of the opposition. The New York Times and the Washington Post, which had generally been neutral since we signed the Covenant last February, have now joined the fray with critical editorials.

TALKING POINTS

1. The Joint Resolution approving our Commonwealth Covenant with the Northern Mariana Islands -- and which would accept the Mariana Islands as a new U.S. territory -- will be the subject of hearings in the House beginning July 14, and, I understand, will be voted on by the House later this month. I understand further that the Senate also intends to take up the Joint Resolution within the next two weeks.
2. I want you to know that I strongly endorse this Covenant, and ask you for your approval of the Joint Resolution. The U.S. has a clear interest in the Northern Mariana Islands, of which Guam is geographically a part. They are important to the credibility of our long-term position in Asia and the Pacific.