

MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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for

URGENT ACTION

July 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN A. FROEBE, JR. *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Presidential Letter on Congressional Resolution on Northern Mariana Islands Covenant

On the morning of July 14 the President briefed a bipartisan Congressional leadership group on the joint resolution approving the covenant of commonwealth for the Northern Mariana Islands. At the meeting the President reviewed the background and significance of the joint resolution and requested the support of the Congress.

During the last month there has been increasing criticism in Congress and the press of the Marianas acquisition and a strong show of Presidential support is necessary to assure passage of the resolution. Ambassador Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, believes that the President should send personal letters on this subject to a number of Congressional leaders who did not attend the briefing session. At Tab A is a proposed letter from the President to be sent to Congressman Burton and Senator Johnston (who have carried the ball on the resolution in their respective houses) and the Chairmen of several Congressional committees concerned with this question.

The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs will begin hearings on the resolution today, July 14, and 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. Consequently, to have effect we will need to send the letters forward as quickly as possible.

The letters have been cleared with Paul Theis and Mr. Friedersdorf's office.

Recommendation:

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

Concurrence:

Les Janka *[Signature]*

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