

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

URGENT ACTION

July 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*
SUBJECT: Presidential Letters on the Joint Resolution
on the Northern Mariana Islands Covenant

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On Monday, July 14, you briefed a bipartisan Congressional leadership group on the proposed joint resolution approving the covenant to establish a commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. A number of important Congressmen and Senators, including Senator Jackson and Congressman Burton, who are interested in the resolution did not attend your briefing. Furthermore, at the insistence of Congressman Burton and Senator Jackson, we confined our consultations on the Hill, during the negotiations, to the Interior Committees in both Houses. We have lately come under some criticism from the other concerned committees for having done so.

Consequently, in order to further increase the chances of passage, it would be useful for you to send personal letters to the following Congressmen urging their support for the resolution:

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| Senator Jackson | Congressman Burton |
| Senator Sparkman | Congressman Mahon |
| Senator Stennis | Congressman Price |
| Senator McClellan | Congressman Haley |
| Senator Johnston | Congressman Morgan |

The full House is expected to vote on the resolution on Monday, July 21, and the Senate Interior Committee will take up the measure on July 23.

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the ten letters at Tab A.

*10 letters delivered 7/19/75 (approx. 12:00 noon)
Pat Leuler*