

MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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January 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

WILLIAM HYLAND

FROM:

THOMAS J. BARNES *TJB*

SUBJECT:

Summary of Your January 16 Meeting  
with Ambassador Haydn Williams on the  
Northern Marianas Covenant

Ambassador Williams made the following points:

-- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee markup for the Northern Marianas Covenant is scheduled January 20, and the one for the Senate Armed Services Committee may take place the same or the following day.

-- Prospects for passage are not bright in either Committee.

-- Senator Pell has proposed an amendment to defeat the Bill; and Senator Percy another amendment to defer it.

-- Senators Byrd and Hart will probably join together in the Senate Arms Services Committee to try to kill the Bill.

-- The problem is the scant general interest in the Senate on this issue, and that politically no Senator has been willing to champion the Administration's position.

-- When the original consideration of the Bill came up, no Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said a word in favor of it.

-- Deputy Secretary Ingersoll has spoken to Senator Sparkman who says he will support the Bill and to Senator Mansfield who was non-committal. Ingersoll has written to Senators Percy, Case, and Javits.

-- Williams has asked Secretary Rumsfeld to try to contact Senator Percy.

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-- Deputy Secretary Clements is seeing Senators Bartlett, Taft, and Nunn January 19.

-- Williams has asked Secretary Kleppe to contact Senators Pearson of Kansas and Bartlett of Oklahoma. The latter is on both Committees.

-- Senator Hugh Scott says he has no interest in this problem and will respond to it only if the White House asks him.

-- Senator Byrd is opposed to the Bill because he thinks we were stupid to give up Okinawa and hence will not support the Administration on any Asian issue. He says we should not give away the Panama Canal on one hand, and take on the Marianas in the other. He also thinks that we would be giving the people of the Marianas too much money.

-- Senator Hart's objections keep changing. He first thought that the military wanted to turn the islands into bases. Then he said the acquisition of the Marianas smacked of imperialism.

-- There must be high-level Administration interest in this problem and the White House must get involved.

Ambassador Williams made the following recommendations:

-- The President to contact Senator Mansfield.

-- The White House to urge that Senator Griffin intervene with Senators Pell and Percy.

-- The White House to contact before 1000 on January 20 every Republican Senator on the two Committees, with special emphasis on Tower, Hugh Scott, Pearson, Javits, Case, and Percy. (I will follow up.)

Mr. Walthuis said that his office would attempt to get Senator Griffin to talk to Senator Percy.

You agreed that the White House should do all it could to support the Administration's Bill because:

-- The House passed it in July 1975.

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-- The Senate Interior Committee has already approved it.

-- We should not let one or two activists on the Committees defeat the Administration position.

cc: Robert Walthuis  
Les Janka

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