

EP
MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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EXECUTIVE

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INFORMATION

January 20, 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT
FROM: CATHIE BENNETT **CB**
SUBJECT: Congressional Action

Marianas Covenant

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved H. J. Res. 549 today by a vote of 7 to 4. In their deliberations they adopted a Javits amendment of a parliamentary nature which places emphasis on the charter provisions (Article IX, Sec. 902) for intermittent discussions (at intervals of no less than 10 years) between the U. S. and the Northern Marianas on problems arising between them. The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on the other hand voted to report the resolution of approval disfavorably by a vote of 5 to 2 with one abstention. The full committee is tentatively scheduled to vote on the legislation on Monday, January 26--in order to meet the committee's January 27 reporting deadline.

How will this go?

Legislation to Add the Secretary of Treasury to the NSC

A Senate vote to override the President's veto of this legislation is scheduled for Thursday, January 22.

Angola

The House Republican Conference plans to hold briefings for GOP members and staffers on the Angola situation. Conference Chairman Anderson and Minority Leader Rhodes apparently discussed the idea and agreed that such a briefing by representatives of the Executive Branch (State, CIA) could be helpful in dispelling a substantial degree of misinformation among Members. Conference staffers are attempting to arrange the briefings for the morning of Tuesday, January 27, prior to the House vote on the Tunney amendment. While I do not think they believe this move will alter the outcome of the vote on the amendment, it may serve to improve the presentation of the Administration's case on the House floor. The briefings may also be an opportune time for



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the Executive Branch to inform Members of any initiatives it intends to take on this issue.

Security Assistance Bill

As a result of the meeting last week between Secretary Kissinger and Senators Humphrey and Case, State and Foreign Relations Committee staffers resumed efforts to reach mutual accommodation on the Security Assistance Bill. Lengthy discussions on Monday, January 19, apparently resulted in some progress on a number of controversial points; however, further negotiation on other objectional provisions will be necessary. The House International Relations Committee has not yet resumed mark-up of its bill. Chairman Morgan probably desires time to assess his recent trip to the Middle East as well as the outcome of State-Senate negotiations.

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