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*3/24/76*

*HCB*

EXECUTIVE  
ST-51  
PR 7-1  
FG 19

*3 pm*  
*Wed 24th*  
*(4)*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*FG 13*  
*FG 11*

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

DATE: March 15, 1976  
THRU: Max Friedersdorf *mb*  
FROM: Bob Wolthuis *RKW*  
VIA: Bill Nicholson

MEETING:

Signing Ceremony for H. J. Res. 549  
The Marianas Covenant

DATE:

At the President's earliest convenience within  
the ten day limitation for signing the bill.  
Friday, March 19, and Monday, March 22, would  
be bad dates from a Congressional viewpoint.

PURPOSE:

To invite leaders in Congress and key civic  
leaders from the Marianas to be present at the  
White House when the President signs the legislation.

FORMAT:

East Room - 15 Minutes

PARTICIPANTS:

The President  
Secretary Kleppe  
Secretary Rumsfeld  
Secretary Kissinger  
House and Senate leadership and both Interior  
Committees  
Approximately 18 Government and civic leaders  
from the Northern Marianas

TALKING POINTS AND  
SPEECH MATERIAL:

NSC-Ambassador Haydn Williams

PRESS COVERAGE:

Open

RECOMMEND:

Ambassador Haydn Williams  
General Scowcroft  
Bob Wolthuis

BACKGROUND:

1. The Congress has completed action on the  
Covenant and it will probably arrive at the  
White House Monday, March 15, or Tuesday,  
March 16. The President has ten days in  
which to sign the bill.



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BACKGROUND (Continued)

2. The Covenant was unanimously approved by the Marianas Legislature February 1975.
3. A Plebesite was conducted on June 17, 1975 where 95% of all eligible voters were registered and 95% of all registered voters voted. In the Plebesite 78.8% voted in favor of commonwealth status in a permanent union with the U.S.
4. There are 18 government and civic leaders from the Northern Marianas now in Washington anticipating a signing ceremony.
5. A signing ceremony and the obvious Presidential interest will be a boost to negotiations now under way with the rest of the Marianas territories.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

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