

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR H. J. RES. 549/
THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COVENANT

Wednesday, March 24, 1976

3:00 p.m. (15 minutes)

The East Room

From: Brent Scowcroft 

I. PURPOSE

To sign H. J. Resolution 549 "to establish a commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States and for other purposes."

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. Background: On July 1, 1975, you transmitted the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Covenant to the United States Congress for its consideration. This action followed approval of the Covenant by the people of the Northern Marianas in a plebiscite held by the United States under United Nations Trusteeship Council observation on June 17, 1975. Of the registered voters, 95 percent participated, and of those who voted, 78.8 percent voted in favor of the Covenant.

The House of Representatives passed H. J. Res. 549 by unanimous voice vote on July 21, 1975. The Bill encountered some serious opposition in the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees, but eventually both of these committees as well as the Interior Committee reported out the resolution. The full Senate passed H. J. Res. 549 on February 24 by a vote of 66-23.

B. Participants: A group of over 200 will attend the ceremony. (A full list of participants will be provided separately). Sitting with you on the stage will be a delegation of about 20 from the Northern Marianas (the leaders will be Edward D. L. G. Pangelinan, Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission -- with whom you met in the Oval Office last March -- and Vicente Santos, President of the Marianas District Legislature), the Chairmen of the relevant Congressional committees,

Cabinet members and your Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams.

C. Press Arrangements: The ceremony will be televised.

III. TALKING POINTS

Robert Hartmann will provide a formal statement for you to read. The following points are for use in the course of the ceremony.

With Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, Your Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations

-- Haydn, you have served four years in what was supposed to be a rather brief assignment. But the length of time it took to negotiate the Covenant and to win Congressional approval shows the seriousness with which everyone approached the matter.

-- You have done an excellent job, not only in negotiating with the people of the Northern Marianas but also in your representations to Congress.

-- I am grateful that the Asia Foundation has so generously allowed you to give us so much of your time (Ambassador Williams is President of the Asia Foundation).

With Congressmen

-- This is a major piece of legislation. It has historic significance in many respects.

-- I am grateful for the good work that each of you did in getting this legislation approved.

-- Congress' acceptance of the Covenant underscores the American seriousness of purpose in the Pacific and throughout the Trust Territory.

-- We can be proud because the entire procedure has demonstrated U.S. respect for the process of self-determination.

-- The establishment of a permanent commonwealth with the Northern Marianas will promote the cause of peace and stability in the Western Pacific. It will assure that those strategically located islands will not again become the object of international rivalry and armed hostility.

With the Delegation from the Northern Marianas

-- It is most appropriate that we are signing the Covenant this Bicentennial year. It will be a great honor to have the people of the Northern Marianas as fellow Americans.

-- Although you will not be officially a part of the United States for a few more years, from here on we will look upon you as compatriots. We are honored that the people of the Northern Marianas have desired for so long to be a part of the American community.

-- I was in the Western Pacific during the war. I know how beautiful are the Mariana Islands and how friendly its people.

Participants

The President
Secretary Rumsfeld
Attorney General Levi
Jack Marsh
Rogers Morton
General Brent Scowcroft
Max Friedersdorf
Bill Baroody
Jim Cannon
Alan Greenspan
Ron Nessen
Bill Seidman
Charles Leppert
Tom Loeffler
Bill Kendall
Joe Jenckes
Bob Wolthuis
Russell Rourke
Les Janka
Cathy DeSibour
Royston Hughes
Larry Cardwell

Senate

Howard Baker
Dewey Bartlett
Quentin Burdick
James Eastland *Platform*
Paul Fannin *Platform*
Hiram Fong *Platform*
Bob Griffin *Platform*
Mark Hatfield
Ernest Hollings
Jacob Javits
Bennett Johnston *Platform*
James McClure
Thomas McIntyre
John Sparkman *Platform*
Ted Stevens
Stuart Symington
Strom Thurmond

Participants Continued

House

Robert Bauman C
~~Robin Beard~~
~~Jaime Benitez~~ C
Don Bonker
Wm. Broomfield IR Platform
Herb Burke
Phil Burton Platform
Bob Carr C
Don Clausen C Platform
Cardiss Collins
Ron Dellums
Ron deLugo C
Ed Derwinski IR
Wm. Dickinson IR
Charles Diggs IR
Thomas Downey IR
L. H. Fountain IR
~~Donald Fraser~~ IR
Benjamin Gilman IR
James Haley C Platform
Lee Hamilton IR
Michael Harrington IR
Wayne Hays IR
Floyd Hicks IR
Marjorie Holt
Allan Howe C
Harold T. Johnson C
Jim Johnson C
Abraham Kazen C
Wm. Ketchum C Platform
Robert Lagomarsino C
~~Robert Leggett~~
Jim Lloyd
Manuel Lujan C
Larry McDonald
Spark Matsunaga
Lloyd Meeds C
~~John Melcher~~ C
Bob Michel Leadership
~~George Miller~~ C
Patsy Mink C
Don Mitchell

Thomas Morgan Chairman Plaffi
Lucien Nedzi
~~Bill Nichols~~
Robert Nix
George O'Brien
Shirley Pettis C
Melvin Price Platform
William Randall
~~Theodore Rison~~ Hoover C
Teno Roncalio C
Harold Runnels C
Philip Ruppe C
Leo Ryan
~~Jim Santini~~ C
Keith Sebelius C
Richard Schulze
Joe Skubitz C Platform
Virginia Smith
Stephen Solarz
~~Floyd Spence~~
Robert Stephens C
Steven Symms C
James Weaver C
~~Charles Whalen~~
Bob Wilson Platform
~~Charles Wilson~~
Antonio Borja Won Pat C
~~Don Young~~ C
Lester Wolff
Clement Zablocki

Participants Continued

Others

Morton Abramowitz
Francisco C. Ada
Christine Allwine
Lt. Col. Walter W. Appelle, Jr.
Antonio C. Atalig
Robert Barton
James Beirne
James Berg
Olympio T. Borja - *Platform*
George S. Brown
Juan LG. Cabrera
Joseph Calvo
Erwin D. Canham
Kit Caples
Keith K. Caplinger
William Clements
Charles Conklin
Peter Tali Coleman
Winfred Craft
William J. Crowe, Jr.
Roger L. Crump
Adrian de Graffenried
Jeanne Delsener
Francisco M. Diaz
Dennis Doolin
Nancy Drake
Daniel Dreyfus
Roscoe Drummond
Tom Dunmire
Ricardo R. Duenas
Lester Edmond
James Elster
Paul Freedenburg
Kent Frizzell
Colleen Greer
Lorenzo I. Guerrero
Philip Habib
Michael Helfer

Eni Hunkin
Robert Ingersoll
O. Thomas Johnson
Ed Kenney
Harmon Kirby
John Kyl
Jay Lapin
James Leonard
Samuel W. Lewis
Harrison Loesch
Stephen A. Loftus, Jr.
Marianne Long
Arlene Lum
Santiago B. Magofna
Herman Marcuse
Mike Marden
Lee McElvaine
Clark McFadden
Felipe Mendiola
Daniel T. Muna - *Platform*
Manuel D. Muna -
William Nabors
Larry Nakatsuka
Misael Ogo
Avis O'Leary
Edward DLG. Pangelinan - *Platform*
Joaquin I. Pangelinan - *Platform*
Eiler Ravenholt
Manuel A. Sablan - *Platform*
Vicente D. Sablan
Donald Sanders
Vicente N. Santos - *Platform*
Antonin Scalia
David L. Schiele
Richard Y. Scott
Col. Athol M. Smith
Christopher Squire
Andre Surena

Participants Continued

Others

Pedro A. Tenorio *platform*
Donald R. Toussaint
Doris Treakle
Mary V. Trent
James E. White
Howard Willens *platform*
F. Haydn Williams *platform*
Margaret Williams
Richard Williams
Molly Williamson
James M. Wilson
Adrian Winkel
Richard Wyttenbach
Fred M. Zeder