

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

March 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: THOMAS J. BARNES

SUBJECT: Congressional Interest in a Trip to the Northern Marianas

Max Friedersdorf in a ^{Henry L.} March 17 memorandum (Tab B) informed you that Senator Bellmon wished to be included in any delegation going to the Marianas for ceremonies relating to President Ford's March 24 signing of the Covenant. I understand other Congressmen have also expressed similar interests.

The actual establishment of the Commonwealth relationship with the Northern Marianas will, of course, not take place until the Trusteeship ends, probably sometime in 1980 or 1981. Currently there are no plans by the Administration to mark the signing of the Covenant with any ceremony in the Northern Marianas.

Interior, however, thinks it would be a good idea to have some ceremony to celebrate the occasion. I understand that Ambassador Williams may soon be writing the President suggesting that the White House send a delegation to Saipan for this purpose.

For the time being, I recommend that we inform Congressmen who inquire that there are no present plans to send a delegation to the islands. I have prepared a memorandum for your signature to Max Friedersdorf advising him of the situation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A to Friedersdorf.

Concurrence:

Les Janka *LJ*