


MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1977

MEMORANDUM TO: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: THE VICE PRESIDENT 
RE: Senate Intelligence Committee Report
on Micronesia

I believe the only reasonable option is not to object to the committee's publication of the language set forth in Brzezinski's memo. The committee, in the first instance, voted unanimously to release that information and, in the second instance, by a 10-2 vote, to publish it after having heard the CIA argument. I think it is also inevitable that the information will leak anyway and would put you in the position of objecting to the committee's recommendations, appearing to cover up a previous effort that, in my opinion, was inexcusable and to be defending an action that I know you would never have agreed to, committed by an earlier administration.

It may create some diplomatic problems, but I think that it will be disclosed anyway and the problem will be much worse, because not only will the information be known, but your credibility will have been damaged by trying to block the committee's disclosure of that information.

Even if Danny would agree with you, I don't think there is any way of keeping the information secret at this point. It also will harm your relationship ^{with} the members of the committee ~~that~~ ^{who} feel strongly about it.

Finally, in my opinion, the long term improvement in the tactics of the CIA and the care with which they pursue the values of this administration will be enhanced if it is known you will not join in the cover up of such matters when they become known.

To agree to seal this report, I think, will be seen to implicate you in a tactic that I know you never would have agreed to were you President at the time.