

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 14, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: RICK HUTCHESON  
FROM: JEFFREY FARROW *Jeff*  
SUBJECT: Presidential proclamation suspending the application of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act to the Northern Mariana Islands

Justice may be moving a proposed Presidential proclamation that would suspend the application of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. They would be prompted to do so by several lawsuits involving the statute.

I am disposed toward an exclusion for the N.M.I.; but would recommend legislation on the subject. Such legislation should also cover the adjoining territory of Guam. If we act on the N.M.I. aspect without addressing the Guam question, we will embarrass the chairman of the House Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, Tony Won Pat of Guam, who has been a supporter.

The Administration's Territorial Policy Task Force will probably recommend next month that we support legislation excluding both territories from the act. Won Pat is now drafting such a bill.

If anything comes over before we finalize an overall territorial policy decision document for the President, would you please run it by me. Thanks.

cc; Kathy Reid