

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 21, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RUTH G. VAN CLEVE, Director
Office of Territorial Affairs
Department of Interior

FROM:

JEFFREY L. FARROW *JLF*
Domestic Policy Staff

SUBJECT:

Application of the Fisheries Conservation
and Management Act to the Northern Mariana
Islands

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Congressman Won Pat concerning problems with the application of the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act to the Northern Mariana Islands.

As you know, I agree that the preferable way to fully resolve this problem is through a legislative solution that will encompass all of the Pacific territories. I have, therefore, suggested to the Justice Department that before seeking a temporary solution for the N.M.I. problem that might irritate the political situation in Guam and American Samoa, they investigate the possibility of postponing the imperative for a Presidential proclamation while a legislative approach is attempted. This perhaps could be accomplished through a continuance of the preliminary injunction preventing enforcement of the act.

They are amenable to the suggestion and have agreed to consult with the parties involved, including the Coast Guard and the Commerce Department, and report back to me. If a continuation is felt infeasible by the agencies, I will attempt to resolve any problems.

I will advise you further as this develops.

Sept 26, 79

Northern Mariana exemption from Fisheries Cons.
+ Mgt Act.

- George Eastwood calls re Justice wants to issue Pres. proclamation for exemption. Earlier JF call to RUC at OTA convinced her of political probs for won Pat if exemption for NMI made before Guam. Won Pat will intro bill, in conjunction w/ Pres' policy. JF w/ hold up any such proclamation.
- Call Bruce Raskow at DoJ: inform him of task force + pol probs. His sympathetic but notes Prelimin injunction issued against US enforcement of FCMA in suit by 3 parties deadline for response Oct 1. Ask whether delay possible. You can extend p.i. if Commerce + Coast Guard agree. Ask to check w/ them if they have probs JF will call. Raskow will advise. His # 633-2779. JF says ~~the~~ issue should be settled by ~~the~~ legislature in next several months.
- Pat Krause called - Phil rec'd letter from Chm Leggit in 77 saying FCMA didn't apply. Rsd situation. Asks I call Aurora Jose to explain Justice call