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WASHINGTON

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11:10 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID L. CHEW  
STAFF SECRETARY AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE  
PRESIDENT

FROM: PETER J. WALLISON   
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Proclamation Entitled:  
"Placing into Full Force and Effect the Covenant  
with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
Islands, and the Compacts of Free Association  
with the Federated States of Micronesia and the  
Republic of the Marshall Islands"

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed Presidential proclamation and concurs with the recommendation of the Director, Office of Management and Budget, as approved by the Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice, that the proclamation be issued by the President.

Since the proposed proclamation will terminate the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands without United Nations approval, you should be aware that the Soviet Union is likely to object. The Soviet Union will likely claim that termination requires Security Council approval. Both Justice and State agree, however, that United Nations approval is not legally required. Although we believe that the Justice/State position is not free from doubt, we believe that the position taken in the proclamation can be legally justified.