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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 13, 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Congressional and Other Views on Treaty Matters

At the Gridiron Dinner Saturday evening, March 10, I sat between Senators Harry Byrd and Frank Church and, at their instance, we talked of matters related to the treaty. Later I was questioned on the state of the treaty negotiations by the President and officers of the Gannett Newspapers chain; Dr. Kissinger; Senator Humphrey; and, the editors of U.S. News and World Report.

Both Senators pressed for the details of the outstanding U. S. treaty offer and, on hearing my resume of them, said with rather more emphasis than one cares to hear, that those terms would most likely be unacceptable to the Senate. Church, interestingly, was more emphatic than Byrd in that view. Discussion ended with the Senators' concluding that the "only answer" is a "piece-meal approach," for which they would be willing to lobby in the Senate. Senator Humphrey said, in effect, that his constituency would not permit him the "liberalism" he would himself wish to exert on this issue. He also seemed to favor a piece-meal approach.

The newspaper people's reaction: extremely attentive, non-committal interest, interspersed with "we have to do something for Panama" comments.

*SMB for*  
ARA-LA/PAN S. Morey Bell

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