

EXECUTIVE

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

F13-1/Panama
Canal

August 25, 1977

Dear Governor Harriman:

Amint

Any of the following reasons would be appropriate in statements of support of the new Panama Canal Treaty:

1. The new treaties will better insure the defense of the Canal.
2. The new treaties will create a more hospitable climate for American trade and investment in Latin America.
3. The new neutrality treaty lets us keep the Canal open to all shipping, of all nations, forever.
4. The new treaty guarantees that no other country could come in and build a new sea-level canal under our nose in Panama.
5. Replacing the outdated 1903 treaty with a modern one will remove an irritant which threatens our relations with the entire third worlds.
6. The best way to keep the Canal safe is to change the Panamanians from sometimes hostile bystanders into partners in the waterway's defense.
7. In Panama, this administration has its first great chance to show that the United States is ready to act, not merely talk, with the maturity, confidence and generosity that befit a great power. Failure to ratify the new treaties would hinder us badly as we try to regain the moral high ground in world affairs.
8. A treaty in the true best interests of both the United States and Panama is the most effective way to insulate the Canal from dangers arising

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Honorable Averell Harriman
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out of possible political instability in
Panama. A truly fair treaty will remain
acceptable, no matter who is in power.

Thank you very much for your help. I'll try to keep
you posted as our efforts progress.

Cordially,



Landon Butler
Deputy Assistant
to the President

Honorable Averell Harriman
Birchgrove
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Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

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(Note: Harriman had been advisor to several presidents beginning
with Franklin Roosevelt. He was governor of New York from 1955 to
1959. He was an advisor to President Carter during SALT II
negotiations.)