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Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President)

Enclosed is a letter to me from the Secretary of the Interior concurred in by the Department of State and Defense proposing legislation in the form of a joint resolution "Regarding

the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands." I support

strongly ~~concur in~~ the views expressed by the Secretary and I am pleased to present to the Congress this proposed bill.

As Secretary Udall states, the people of Micronesia, through their elected representatives, have asked for the appointment of a commission to study the alternatives relative to the political future of Micronesia, and to make recommendations concerning the methods best suited to a speedy determination of that political future. I share the expressed view of the Congress of Micronesia that "this generation of Micronesians should have an early opportunity to determine the future constitutional and political status of Micronesia." It is gratifying to me that the people of Micronesia, through this petition, demonstrate a marked sense of political maturity and sensitivity. Even though motivated by an understandable sense of urgency and concern, they have selected an approach to the problem which will permit the concerns of all of the interested parties to be considered and evaluated, and which indirectly, through discussion and debate, will serve to sort out and clarify for the

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people of Micronesia the alternatives, in their fullness, that are available to them. This process cannot fail to substitute facts for suppositions, hard appraisals for guesses, and understanding where there is now only confusion in the absence of knowledge.

Because I believe a commission is the correct approach in this matter, it is my desire that one be established. I do not wish, however, to proceed independently of the Congress. Because [the] Federal interests and responsibility with respect to the Trust Territory, and any resolution of the question of ^{the} political future of the Trust Territory, are so entwined within the executive and legislative branches, it seems to me that the very substance of the problem speaks eloquently for the necessity of a cooperative effort, and I invite the Congress to join with the Executive in such an effort by the enactment of the enclosed legislation.

Sincerely,

President

Hon. John W. McCormack
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Enclosure

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