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# The Future Political Status Commission

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May 8, 1969

Honorable Richard M. Nixon  
President of United State of America  
The White House  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am sending you a copy of my statement and position relative to Marianas Integration in relation to the future political status of Micronesia.

In the statement you will see clearly that I am in favor of Marianas's integration within the context of Free Associated States of Micronesia with the United States.

It is my opinion that it will be highly undesirable for economic and military strategic point of view to allow Marianas to integrate and secede from the rest of the Micronesia's future political status.

I believe that if Marianas is allowed to establish her own union outside the political status of Micronesia, the United States will have established a precedent that anyone district or group of districts within and between the island districts may also be allowed to establish a political status of their choice outside the rest of island groups. Palau and Yap may then elect an internal self-government in free association with United States; Truk and Ponape may choose to be independent; and Marshalls will not unlikely join Nauru.

I seriously doubt that this type of arrangement will be within the interest of Micronesia and United States.

May I have your personal opinion or views, if not, then the United States's policy, whether fragmentation of the districts will be allowed.

I urgently need this information to strengthen or alter my position as a member of the Future Political Status Commission of the Congress of Micronesia.

An honor to be SIR.

Senator Francisco T. Palacios  
Member, Future Political Status Commission  
Congress of Micronesia.

05- 420184

MARIANAS INTEGRATION  
AND MICRONESIA'S FUTURE  
POLITICAL STATUS  
(By Sen. Palacios)

I AM PRESENTING THIS STATEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS,  
THE PEOPLE OF GUAM, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY. ITS PURPOSE  
IS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT, AS A MARIANAS SENATOR IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA  
AND AS A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, I  
ENDORSE THE IDEA OF A UNITED MICRONESIA AND I ENDORSE THE GOAL OF A  
SELF-GOVERNING MICRONESIAN STATE IN FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.  
I ALSO CONTINUE TO BELIEVE - AS I HAVE BELIEVED FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, IN THE  
INTEGRATION OF ALL THE MARIANAS ISLANDS. I MAINTAIN THAT THE BEST WAY TO  
ACHIEVE THE LONG-CHERISHED UNION OF GUAM AND THE NORTHERN MARIANAS IS  
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A UNITED SELF-GOVERNING MICRONESIAN STATE. I  
FEEL THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO EMPHASIZE MY SUPPORT OF UNION OF THE MARIANAS  
AND UNITY OF MICRONESIA. I AM CONVINCED THAT THESE TWO GOALS ARE RELATED  
AND THAT WE MUST WORK TOWARDS THEM BOTH.  
IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE, I THINK, FOR THE MARIANAS TO UNITE AS A GROUP AND  
THEN CUT ITS TIES WITH THE REST OF MICRONESIA. THERE ARE STRONG POLITICAL,  
ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL REASONS FOR A UNITED MARIANAS DISTRICT TO REMAIN  
AS PART OF A SELF-GOVERNING MICRONESIA. I DO NOT LOOK FORWARD TO - AND

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I DOUBT THE UNITED STATES WOULD PERMIT - THE MARIANAS TO REMAIN A  
U. S. TERRITORY WHILE TRUK WENT INDEPENDENT, THE MARSHALLS JOINED HAWAII,  
AND PONAPE ASSOCIATED ITSELF, LET US SAY, WITH NAURU. I SUSPECT THAT  
IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE ISLANDS OF  
MICRONESIA REMAIN TOGETHER. AND I BELIEVE THAT SUCH A UNITY IS IN THE  
BEST INTERESTS OF THE ISLANDS THEMSELVES. AS A SEPARATE DISTRICT, THE  
MARIANAS WILL COUNT FOR LITTLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS; BUT AS A PART OF A  
UNITED MICRONESIA WE CAN SPEAK WITH A STRONGER VOICE. WE CAN ASK FOR  
MORE, HOPE FOR MORE, ACCOMPLISH MORE.

AS PART OF A UNITED MICRONESIA, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT WOULD INCLUDE THE  
LARGEST AND MOST DEVELOPED LAND AREA AND THE LARGEST MOST HIGHLY-TRAINED  
MANPOWER. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WOULD NOT BENEFIT FROM OUR  
UNION WITH OTHER DISTRICTS. AS PART OF A TOTAL MICRONESIAN ECONOMY,  
OUR OWN POTENTIALS IN AGRICULTURE AND THE MILITARY MARKET COULD BE TIED  
TO PALAU AND TRUK'S POTENTIAL IN FISHING. AND CERTAINLY TOURISM, IF  
UNDERTAKEN AS A COOPERATIVE VENTURE AMONG ALL DISTRICTS, WOULD PROVE FAR  
MORE PROFITABLE AND SATISFYING THAN AS AN ENTERPRISE THAT WAS LIMITED  
ONLY TO THE MARIANAS.

NOW LET ME SPEAK OF THE CULTURAL BENEFITS OF A UNIFIED MICRONESIAN STATE. AS A NATIVE RESIDENT OF SAIPAN, I HAVE ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THAT I HAVE MANY TIES WITH GUAM - TIES OF EDUCATION AND MEDICINE, BUSINESS AND TRANSPORTATION. AND, MORE THAN THIS, I RECOGNIZE THE GREAT LINK OF CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND BLOOD. I KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WILL BENEFIT FROM UNION WITH THEIR COUSINS ON GUAM. BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT A UNITED MARIANAS WILL BENEFIT FROM ASSOCIATION WITH PEOPLE OF OTHER DISTRICTS, PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT CULTURE AND CHARACTER. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM STATUS COMMISSION HEARINGS IN PONAPE AND THE MARSHALLS AND I FEEL THAT, IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER DISTRICTS, WE HAVE MUCH TO LEARN AND MUCH TO TEACH. I THINK A UNITED MICRONESIA CAN DO GREAT THINGS.

TO SUMMARIZE: BY UNION WITH GUAM WE BENEFIT FROM ASSOCIATION WITH OUR OWN PEOPLE; BY UNION WITH THE REST OF MICRONESIA, WE BENEFIT FROM ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

I REPEAT THAT THE TWO GOALS - MARIANAS INTEGRATION AND MICRONESIAN UNITY - ARE NOT IN CONFLICT. TO ME, NOW, THEY HAVE BECOME ONE. I SUPPORT THEM BOTH AND I INVITE THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS TO CONSIDER THEM CAREFULLY.

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SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR HICKEL HAS PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIA. THE STATUS COMMISSION HAS PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SIX DISTRICTS. I NOW PROPOSE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TRUST TERRITORY AND GUAM. THIS IS NOT A DECISION WHICH CAN BE MADE QUICKLY, BUT I THINK THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY SHOULD THINK ABOUT IT, AND THE PEOPLE OF GUAM SHOULD THINK ABOUT IT - ABOUT A PARTNERSHIP WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE US ALL, AND IN WHICH ALL WOULD BE WELCOME.

I HAVE ONE CLOSING REMARK TO OFFER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, AND TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM. I SAY IT NOW AND I WILL SAY IT IN THE WEEKS TO COME. LET'S TALK. AND, WHEN WE TALK, LET'S FORGET THE SLOGANS OF THE PAST AND THINK OF THE PROMISES OF THE FUTURE.

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