

MICRONESIAN POLITICAL STATUS DELEGATION

Capitol Hill Saipan Mariana Islands 96950

June 22, 1970

Lazarus Salii
Chairman

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John Mangafel

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Minoru Ueki

Honorable Harrison Loesch
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Harrison:

Perhaps Mr. Santos's mention of the term commonwealth in Guam has caused both you and me some unnecessary concern. That statement he made has not stirred up any fuss here as far as I have been able to ascertain, and I am ready to ignore it for the time being, unless he capitalizes on whatever information he may have again. If he has a copy of the U. S. proposal and any of the statement papers, I have no idea how he got a hold of them. In any event, I am fully satisfied that there was no conscious attempt on your part to undermine the confidentiality of our discussions. I can assure you of the same on our part.

Incidentally, I thought Ambassador Wright did a very creditable job at the Trusteeship Council in not being trapped into giving out any information on the discussions. I mention this not because I had had any fears that he might, but in view of the fact that the members of the council knew about the talks, I had expected some deep probing into the talks by certain delegates on the council.

I appreciate your telling me about the Executive Session on the status meetings with the Senate and House Interior Committees. I also fully understand that this had to be done. Chairman Jackson also informed me by letter of the Executive Session.

If it is not too out of the ordinary, not being privy to the routine and protocol of the U. S. Congress, our Delegation would appreciate receiving a full transcript of that Executive Session from you or from either one of the Committees.

Honorable Harrison Loesch

Page 2

June 22, 1970

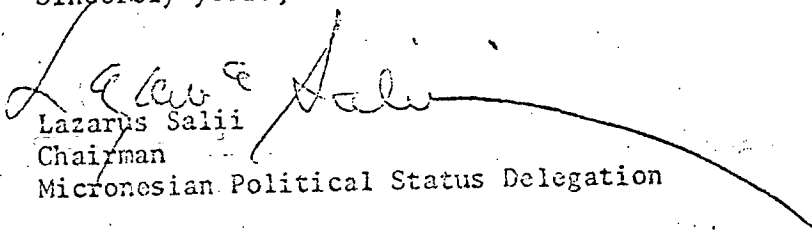
The information will be kept strictly with the Delegation.

Perhaps what I am going to say now should be the subject of a separate letter, but being the terrible correspondent that I am without any great ardor for bureaucratic niceties, I will say it here along with all the rest of it above. I know I speak for all the members of our Delegation on this. We fully appreciated the courteous manner in which you and the members of your Delegation approached our meetings on Saipan, both during the formal sessions and outside of them. If there had been any shortcomings in our handling of any matter on the formalities of negotiations, it was due entirely to my inexperience on such matters.

Please give my best regards to the others. And please tell Secretary Hickel for me that all of us think he could not have picked a better person to chair the U. S. Delegation to Micronesia.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


Lazarus Salii
Chairman
Micronesian Political Status Delegation

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