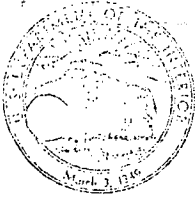


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# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUL 24 1970

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I want to express my appreciation for your considerate handling of the Micronesian status question in our two Executive Sessions before the Subcommittee.

I particularly appreciate your comments about the Committee's interest and expertise and your suggestion that the Committee might usefully assist in further considerations of difficult aspects of this matter. I share your sentiments completely, and believe the time is appropriate for a greater measure of cooperation.

A year ago, the most difficult problem with regard to status was to achieve an Executive Branch, interdepartmental position. We have immersed ourselves in the problem, however, and have developed what we consider to be a solution favorable to all parties.

As you are aware, the Congress of Micronesia will be considering, during its present session, the question of Micronesia's political future, particularly in the context of the U.S. Executive Branch proposal and the report of the Micronesian Political Status Delegation. We are not sure that any decision will be reached, but we consider this a watershed in the determination of status.

As we hopefully move forward in the evolution of a new status, we will certainly wish to keep in close touch with Congress and notably your Subcommittee.

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If it is your desire, I would hope that members or staff of the Committee might sit in on any future status meetings or hearings with the Micronesians. We would, of course, understand that Congress would be in no way bound by this procedure. In this connection, I would hope that, if my trip actually materializes, representatives of the Committee could accompany me to Saipan next month for hearings in the Congress of Micronesia.

I will appreciate your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) Harrison Loesch

Harrison Loesch,  
Assistant Secretary

Honorable Hugh L. Carey  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Territorial and Insular Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc:

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