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Speech delivered by the Honorable Olympio T. Borja, Senator, on the floor of the Senate, Fourth Special Session, 1971, Congress of Micronesia. Thursday, May 13, 1971.

Mr. President and fellow Senators:

Recent events in various parts of our vast Micronesia have underscored the need for us to reexamine the future direction of our progress. The obvious imbalance of our development from district to district in Micronesia is becoming the source of differing views among our people and what they think should now be the course of action that our Government should explore and take. Those of us in this Congress are torn between different alternatives, different possible courses of action, and different desires and hopes that our respective constituents have asked us to pursue.

I hope, therefore, Mr. President, that the delay in the arrival of the members of this Congress could be understood and seen in these lights. It is somewhat unfortunate that certain persons and the press decided to publicize the absence of the members of the Congress from the Marianas for the first days of this special session and labeled such delay as a boycott. I wish to commend this Congress, especially the Presiding Officers, for patiently awaiting the arrival of our Marianas Delegation.

Many people in the Mariana Islands District are beginning to wonder out loud whether the Trusteeship Agreement and its many delimiting provisions touching upon the whole range of possible programs for our islands should be honored. This feeling is further engendered by the recognition that no Micronesian participated in the formulation of this Agreement or concurred to certain of its provisions since then. Year after year as our people continue to sit by and watch our neighboring island nations and territories wax and grow in economic and social development, in education, and political sophistication, many of them are beginning to wonder if it is all worthwhile to live under the structures of a Trusteeship Agreement that was not of our own making.

The desire to become a part of the United States may be partly explained by the sincere belief that with the United States, greater resources could be found to overcome many of the seemingly insoluble problems that have thus far stunted our efforts to improve our lots.

Personally, I am still confident that a much closer political status with the United States is still negotiable and that United States stands ready to exchange its views with us to explore future possible relationship and political ties. Such negotiation could still be done through this Congress and its committees, and I have every hope that by mutual understanding and exchanges of views within these chambers this Congress and the people of Micronesia may be able to forge a mutually acceptable position on the future political status issue with which to negotiate when meeting with the United States negotiation team.

Lastly, I hope, Mr. President, that during this special session a more definitive course of action could be decided by this Congress with respect to where and how we should go about in obtaining an early resolution of the poli-

tical issue before the Micronesian people and that after this special session we can return to discuss with our constituents how these mutual objectives for Micronesia may best be achieved, sooner rather than later.

I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to speak.