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Cable to Senate President Amata Kabua from Senator
Olympio T. Borja of Saipan District, inserted in the
Journal of the Senate on May 21, 1971.

MR. PRESIDENT AND COLLEAGUES:

I SEND THIS MESSAGE TO YOU FROM SAIPAN BECAUSE OF THE UNFORTUNATE
CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH NECESSITATED MY EARLY DEPARTURE FROM OUR SPECIAL
SESSION ON TRUK A FEW DAYS AGO. AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, MY FATHER-IN-LAW
HAS BEEN CRITICALLY ILL, AND I FELT IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO BE BY HIS
SIDE AND WITH MY DEAR WIFE CARMEN IN THESE TRYING HOURS. I HAD WANTED,
HOWEVER, TO DELIVER A FEW SHORT REMARKS TO THE SENATE BEFORE THE END OF
THE SESSION, AND HOPE THAT THIS DISPATCH WILL SERVE TO CONVEY THE SENTIMENTS
WHICH I HOLD. I WOULD REQUEST THAT MY THOUGHTS BE SET DOWN IN THE JOURNAL
OF THE SENATE, THAT WHAT I HAVE TO SAY HERE MAY BE WELL REMEMBERED.

ALL OF YOU BY NOW KNOW MY POSITION REGARDING THE FUTURE POLITICAL
STATUS OF MICRONESIA. I HAVE ALWAYS SPOKEN OUT IN FAVOR OF COMMONWEALTH.
I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE ADVANTAGES OF COMMONWEALTH FAR OUTWEIGH BOTH ITS
DISADVANTAGES AS WELL AS THE ADVANTAGES OF THE OTHER FORMS OF GOVERNMENT
WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WANT THIS STATUS
BECAUSE THEY ARE PROUD OF WHAT AMERICA HAS DONE FOR THEIR RELATIVES AND
ACQUAINTANCES IN GUAM AND BECAUSE THEY SINCERELY WANT THOSE SAME ADVANTAGES
FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR FELLOW MICRONESIANS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.
WE BELIEVE THAT THE NUMEROUS ADVANTAGES WHICH COMMONWEALTH HAS TO OFFER
ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY — UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP,
MINIMUM WAGE, OPPORTUNITY FOR RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND MANY, MANY
OTHER FACTORS FAR TOO NUMEROUS TO BELABOR HERE — ARE ADVANTAGES WHICH WE
CAN NOT, MUST NOT, AND WILL NOT ALLOW TO PASS. WE IN THE MARIANAS WOULD

BE HAPPY TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE UNITED STATES, ASSOCIATED IN COMMONWEALTH STATUS. OUR FEELINGS, MR. PRESIDENT, AS YOU MAY HAVE GATHERED FROM THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN RECENT MONTHS AND IN RECENT WEEKS, ARE NOT LIGHTLY HELD.

I HOPE THAT MY COLLEAGUES WILL ALLOW THEMSELVES TO UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS, WISHES, AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS. FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS OR MORE, OUR PEOPLE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE FOR ATTAINMENT OF SUCH A STATUS. THEY HAVE ADOPTED, BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN A RECENT PLEBISCITE, A PROPOSITION SEEKING CLOSER ALIGNMENT WITH GUAM, A UNITED STATES TERRITORY. THEY HAVE PROVED THE DEPTH OF THEIR CONVICTION BY THEIR ENLISTMENT AND SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY, WILLING TO RISK THEIR VERY LIVES FOR THAT IN WHICH THEY BELIEVE. THEY HAVE EXPLORED EVERY AVENUE FOR A MEANS TO THEIR DESIRED END: TO BE PART OF AMERICA, AND TO ENJOY THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

WITH THE ADVENT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO, THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WERE MOST GRATIFIED, FOR IT MEANT TO THEM THAT THEY WOULD HAVE A FORUM FOR THE EXPRESSION OF THEIR IDEAS AND A BASE FROM WHICH THEY COULD SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY REGARDING THEIR DESIRE FOR COMMONWEALTH.

THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE ALWAYS COOPERATED WITH THE CONGRESS, HAVE SEEN ITS VALUE TO THEM, AND HAVE SUPPORTED IT IN MANY WAYS. THESE SENTIMENTS STILL HOLD TRUE. BUT I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND, MR. PRESIDENT, THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF MANY OF THE MORE IMPATIENT PEOPLE OF MY DISTRICT WHEN THE CONGRESS FAILED TO ACCEPT EXACTLY THE OFFER THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR, TO THESE MANY YEARS. I HOPE THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THEIR FRUSTRATION

WHEN THIS AUGUST BODY REJECTED THE WONDERFUL OFFER OF COMMONWEALTH WHICH WAS MADE TO THE POLITICAL STATUS DELEGATION. IT SEEMED, ON OCCASION, AS IF TEN YEARS OF COMPLIANCE AND COOPERATION HAD GONE FOR NAUGHT. I CANNOT SAY THAT THE DULY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS CONGRESS DID NOT FEEL THE SAME WAY. THE MARIANAS HAS, AFTER ALL, ELECTED DELEGATES TO THIS CONGRESS SINCE ITS INCEPTION, AND MANY OF US BEGAN TO LOOK FOR A WAY TO EXPRESS OUR IMPATIENCE WITH THE CONGRESS' FAILURE TO GRASP A GOAL THAT WAS WITHIN REACH, AND ITS FAILURE TO CARRY ON THE POLITICAL STATUS DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL THE SPEED AT ITS COMMAND. MY COLLEAGUES AND I WERE OF THE OPINION THAT A DRAMATIC WAY TO SHOW OUR SENSE OF LACK OF FULFILLMENT, OUR YEARNING FOR A RESOLUTION TO THIS THORNY THICKET OF POLITICAL STATUS, WAS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM BY OUR FAILURE TO ATTEND THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. OUR POINT HAVING BEEN MADE, WE HOPED, WE RETURNED TO THE CONGRESS, RESUMING ONCE AGAIN THE FULL SPIRIT OF COMPLETE COOPERATION WHICH WE HAVE SHOWN IN PAST YEARS. I HOPE THAT YOU AND MY COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE AND MY FELLOW CONGRESSMEN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CAN UNDERSTAND OUR REASONS, AND FORGIVE US OUR IMPATIENCE.

CONGRESS HAS, AS I HAVE NOTED, SEEN FIT TO REJECT THE COMMONWEALTH OFFER AND ADOPT A POSITION FAVORING A MICRONESIA IN FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. MY FELLOW DELEGATES FROM THE MARIANAS DISTRICT AND I RETAIN OUR HOPES AND OUR DESIRE THAT THIS THINKING WILL BE CHANGED, THAT THIS POSITION WILL BE ALTERED, AND THAT ALL OF US WILL REMAIN TOGETHER FOREVER IN A COMMONWEALTH OF MICRONESIA, OF MICRONESIANS. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT YOU MAY NOT FEEL THE SAME WAY, AS WE HOPE YOU CAN RECOGNIZE OUR POSITION.

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I WOULD LIKE TO STATE, HOWEVER, MR. PRESIDENT, MY DESIRE FOR CONTINUED CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MARIANAS DELEGATION AND THE CONGRESS. I PLACE MY FAITH IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, AND AM CONFIDENT THAT THESE ESTEEMED SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES WILL DO THE FINEST JOB OF WHICH THEY ARE CAPABLE. I HOPE, TOO, THAT THEY WILL BE CONVINCED BY THE ADVANTAGES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OFFER, AND OF A COMMONWEALTH STATUS IN GENERAL. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS COMMITTEE WILL PROCEED WITH ITS WORK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND WILL MEET WITH THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE TIME, SO THAT OUR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS CAN BE RESOLVED. I DO NOT RELISH THE IDEA OF RULE BY OTHERS EITHER.

IT APPEARS QUITE PROBABLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE REGARDING FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS WILL NOT BE ALTERED OR AMENDED. I, THEREFORE, OFFER MY SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE AND TO THE CONGRESS TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS OWN GOALS, BUT I MUST STATE THAT AT SUCH TIME AS THIS COMMITTEE REACHES CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDS A FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, AND TO ME, I WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THOSE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. I, THEREFORE, SUBMIT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION A PROPOSAL THAT, AT THE POINT WHERE A STATUS OTHER THAN COMMONWEALTH IS FIRMLY AND IRREVOCABLY ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND ACTED FAVORABLY UPON BY THE CONGRESS FOLLOWING THE NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES. THE COMMITTEE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION THAT A SEPARATE SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE DULY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT AND THE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS, SO THAT WE MAY ONE DAY SOON SEE OUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS ACHIEVED, TOO. I WOULD

ADD THAT I DO INTEND TO SUPPORT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER FIVE DISTRICTS IN WHATEVER STATUS THEY CHOOSE TO SEEK, AND LEND THE WEIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, THROUGH MY SUPPORT IN THIS CONGRESS, TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR GOALS. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT MY COLLEAGUES WILL SEE FIT TO RECIPROCATE. I HAVE ALWAYS FELT, AFTER ALL, THAT BENEATH OUR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, WE ARE ONE PEOPLE, AND WE SHOULD SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS BEST WE ARE ABLE. YOU HAVE MY FIRM PLEDGE THAT I SHALL DO SO.

I HOPE THAT THE GOOD WORK OF THIS SPECIAL SESSION HAS PROCEEDED AS WELL AS EXPECTED. THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS ARE VERY CONCERNED AND INTERESTED IN THEIR CONGRESS AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS. IT IS MY PERSONAL HOPE, AND THAT OF MY CONSTITUENTS, THAT THE CONGRESS WILL RETURN TO ITS HOME ON SAIPAN FOR THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY OF NEXT YEAR. ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF SAIPAN AND THE MARIANAS, I RESPECTFULLY EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE CONGRESS TO MEET ON SAIPAN AT THAT TIME, AND FURTHER, TO SEEK TO ESTABLISH THE PERMANENT CAPITAL OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, AND LATER, OF MICRONESIA, ON SAIPAN.

Hafa Adai, and thank you all very much.

OLYMPIO T. BORJA
SENATOR, MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT