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A-19

HANDLING INDICATOR
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NO. RS/R

DEPARTMENT PASS TO: INTERIOR DEPT. FOR ASST. SECRETARY LOESCH AND
OFFICE OF TERRITORIES. DEFENSE DEPT. FOR OSD/ISA.
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. HOLDRIDGE (NSC). USUN NEW YORK.

FROM : HICOMTERPACIS POLAD, SAIPAN DATE: May 27, 1971

SUBJECT : TTPI - Proposal for Establishment of an Executive Council

REF :

1. The addressees will recall several reporting telegrams, sent from Truk during the Congressional Special Session, which highlighted sentiment for establishment of an "executive council." Support for such action was particularly strong in the Senate, and especially so from Senator Lazarus Salii, Chairman of the Future Political Status Committee. A copy of his statement on the matter is enclosed. Also enclosed is the report on the proposal prepared by the Senate Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee. It is worthy of reading in terms of highlighting the emotions that attached to this particular proposal in the Senate.

2. As of this moment, it is not clear whether the proposal, Senate Joint Resolution 26, actually passed the House following its adoption by the Senate. There was some confusion in the House during the last two days of the Special Session. This will be cleared up when the journal for those two days has been completed.

3. State, please pass copy to Ambassador Williams.

DORRANCE *[Signature]*

Enclosure: (1) Statement by Senator Salii
(2) Senate Committee Report on S.J.R. 26

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Clearances:

Enclosure ~~two~~ ONE
Saipan A-19

REMARKS BY

TO

~~SPEECH~~ FOR SENATOR SALII REGARDING S.J.R. NO. 26

MR. PRESIDENT AND COLLEAGUES:

SEVERAL

FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS, SOMEONE ELSE HAS RULED MICRONESIA. FOR TWENTY GENERATIONS A SPANIARD, A GERMAN, A JAPANESE, OR AN AMERICAN HAS TOLD YOU ^{AND ME} WHAT YOU ^{WE CAN} COULD DO AND WHEN YOU COULD DO IT. FOR GENERATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN A SUBJECT PEOPLE. MR. PRESIDENT, I THINK THAT IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT MICRONESIANS BEGAN TO GOVERN MICRONESIA.

THE UNITED STATES, UNDER WHOSE WARDSHIP WE WERE PLACED AFTER WORLD WAR II, HAS ALWAYS NOMINALLY SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE FOR MICRONESIA WHEN IT SIGNED THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT FOR MICRONESIA. ALL OF US HAVE HIGH HOPES THAT ONE DAY, ~~VERY~~ SOON, MICRONESIA WILL ATTAIN THAT GOAL.

YET ONE THING MAKES ITSELF PAINFULLY ^{OBVIOUS} ~~OBVIOUS~~. NOT ONE PERSON ON THIS FLOOR-----NOT ONE MICRONESIAN AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT-----HAS EVER HAD ANY APPRECIABLE EXPERIENCE AT HEADING THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, AT MAKING THE MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS, AT CARRYING ON THE DAY-TO-DAY FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE REQUIRED OF A CHIEF EXECUTIVE. WHO, THEN, SHALL WE CHOOSE TO BE OUR FUTURE CHIEF EXECUTIVE? MR. PRESIDENT, WE CANNOT FIND SUCH PEOPLE AS WE FIND COCONUTS. LEADERSHIP AND THE ABILITY TO LEAD ARE NOT QUALITIES WHICH ARE INBORN, NEVER TO BE LOST, ABLE TO BE ASSUMED AT THE DROP OF THE HAT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

IT IS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DEVELOP IN MICRONESIANS WHO HAVE LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL THOSE SKILLS SO NECESSARY FOR A CHIEF EXECUTIVE. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NUMBER 26 WOULD ACCOMPLISH

— TO A GREAT DEGREE

THIS OBJECTIVE. THIS RESOLUTION ASKS THE UNITED STATES TO CREATE A CORPORATE CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR MICRONESIA, COMPOSED OF ^{MEMBERS} ~~THE~~ LEADERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES. FINAL DECISION-MAKING POWER WOULD BE EXERCISED BY THIS ~~GO-CALED~~ EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS WOULD BECOME INTIMATELY INVOLVED WITH THE WORKINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. IN ADDITION TO THE SHORT-TERM ADVANTAGES OF INCREASED COMMUNICATION, AND HOPEFULLY INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD SERVE AS A SPAWNING GROUND FOR A FUTURE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MICRONESIA. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, LIKE A CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WOULD DEAL WITH ALL OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE OUR GOVERNMENT TODAY, AND MOST OF THOSE WHICH WILL FACE IT IN YEARS TO COME. ~~IT WILL BE AS THE CRUCIBLE WHICH HARDENS THE IRON OF OUR FUTURE LEADERSHIP.~~

I HAVE HEARD SEVERAL OF MY WISE COLLEAGUES SPEAK IN FAVOR OF THIS MEASURE, BOTH ^{IN THE HOUSE} ~~ON THE FLOOR OF THIS CHAMBER AND OFF OF IT.~~ I HAVE ALSO ~~HEARD SEVERAL OF MY OTHER COLLEAGUES SPEAK AGAINST IT.~~ ^{AND MEMBERS OF THE EXEC BRANCH} IN MANY CASES, THESE ARE THE SAME SENATORS WHO HAVE CALLED FOR ^{Full SELF GOVERNMENT} INDEPENDENCE FOR MICRONESIA, ^{A STEP WOULD} ~~A POLITICAL STATUS WHICH REQUIRES~~ HIGH SOPHISTICATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORKINGS OF GOVERNMENT. HOW, MAY I ASK, DO THESE SENATORS PROPOSE THAT MICRONESIANS GAIN THIS SOPHISTICATION, THIS KNOWLEDGE? THESE ARE ALSO SOME OF THE SAME SENATORS WHO HAVE CASTIGATED THE POLITICAL STATUS COMMITTEE FOR ITS FAILURE TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION, TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD THE RESOLUTION OF THIS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE. HOW DO THESE GENTLEMEN PROPOSE TO GET READY FOR THAT ALL-IMPORTANT DAY WHEN THE ISSUES ARE RESOLVED, AND WHEN THIS LAND IS AGAIN OUR OWN? HOW CAN THESE SENATORS REFUSE TO IMPLEMENT AN IMPORTANT PROVISION OF THE REPORT OF THE MICRONESIAN POLITICAL STATUS

of FOREIGN DEPT

DELEGATION, A REPORT WHICH THEY ALL SUPPORTED WITH THEIR VOTES? HOW CAN THESE GENTLEMEN TURN DOWN THIS OPPORTUNITY AT ~~A REAL CHANCE~~ TO OBTAIN THE GOAL FOR WHICH WE HAVE BEEN STRIVING THESE ~~PAST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS?~~ For so L.

I SUBMIT, MR. PRESIDENT, MY UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR THIS BILL. FOR ME, THE TIME HAS COME WHEN I WANT NO ONE BUT A MICRONESIAN AT THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT. ^{or some foreigner}

THANK YOU.

Congress of Micronesia ¹⁰

Enclosure ~~36~~ TWO
Saipan A-19 A-19

Committee on
Judiciary and
Governmental Operations
Andon Amaraich
Chairman

SENATE
Saipan, Mariana Islands
96950



Olympio T. Borja
Lazarus Saliil
Petrus Tun
Ambilos Iehsi

STAND. COM. REPT. NO. 10

MAY 17, 1971

RE: S. J. R. No. 26

01

The Honorable Amata Kabua
President of the Senate
Congress of Micronesia
Fourth Special Session, 1971

Mr. President:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, to which was referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 26, ENTITLED:

S. J. R. No. 26, "A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO GOVERN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AS SUGGESTED IN THE REPORT OF THE POLITICAL STATUS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution is adequately expressed in its title. Briefly stated, the resolution asks for a change in the Secretarial Order to establish a corporate Executive for the Trust Territory, to be known as the Executive Council.

Several sources were involved in the conceptualization of this resolution. We first take note of the obligation of the United States as Administering Authority of the Trust Territory under the Trusteeship Agreement to "promote the inhabitants (of the Trust Territory) toward self-government or independence . . ." We point out to the members of the Senate that, since the inception of civilian government, virtually no changes in the basic nature of the structure of the Executive Branch of the Trust Territory Government have taken place. All efforts of the Congress of Micronesia to seek a Chief Executive responsible in some way to the people of Micronesia have been turned aside. Presently, the High Commissioner is appointed by the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the United States Senate. We feel that it is time that some expression of a Micronesian point of view was built into the position.

STAND. COM. REPT. NO. 10

MAY 17, 1971

RE: S. J. R. No. 26

We also take note of certain language in the Report of the Political Status Delegation of the Congress of Micronesia. The Delegation's report recommended the creation of the council, in language which appears on page two of the resolution. We note further certain language in the Report of the Joint Committee on Governmental Organization supporting the intent of this resolution. In addition, we have considered the recommendation of the most recent United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory, which repeated its recommendation of prior years to the effect that Micronesian participation in the final decision-making powers of the Executive Branch be implemented and increased.

Your Committee held extensive public hearings on this measure, both on Saipan and in Truk. The thrust of testimony from the Administration was that the reforms envisioned by this resolution were premature and unclearly set forth. We respectfully submit that a simple reading of the resolution makes the desired changes abundantly clear: instead of a single High Commissioner, the resolution proposes a corporate Chief Executive, composed of representatives of the Congress of Micronesia and of the Executive Branch. The Executive Council thus created would have the same final decision-making powers as the present High Commissioner has, and the same policy-making functions. As to the statement that this measure is premature, we can only say that even the United States has indicated that the problem of the future political status of Micronesia will be resolved in the near future. Your Committee's position is that we have waited centuries for a Micronesian government, and do not desire to wait any longer. Additionally, if the resolution of the status question is as close as it is indicated, it seems to us that it is certainly time for Micronesians to obtain some experience in the role of Chief Executive. We will, hopefully, not have an expatriate in that position forever.

We are not concerned with the fact that the proposed Executive Council cannot be neatly fit into a cubbyhole of Executive Councils, by whatever name, which have been tried before and successfully in other areas of the South Pacific and the world. We do not feel bound by forms of government which have preceded us, except to the extent that what has gone before has been proven to work to the exclusion of the resolution's proposal. We are satisfied that the proposed Executive Council will succeed in its aims of training the leadership of the Micronesian people in the proper exercise of the Chief Executive Authority, as well as providing sorely needed Micronesian input into the final decision-making process.

Nor do we see any great conflict between the creation of an Executive Council and the system of separation of powers under which the Trust Territory operates. Any system, to be effective, must be flexible.

MAY 17, 1971

RE: S. J. R. No. 26

To the extent that the present system is inflexible, it does not serve the needs of the people of Micronesia, and should be altered or amended accordingly.

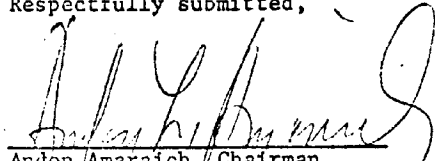
A mere formalization of the existing executive-legislative liaisons will not, we are afraid, suit the purposes desired. While we recognize the value of the so-called "leadership sessions" which have been held in the past, and appreciate the consideration of the High Commissioner in lending an ear to the problems and desires of the leadership of the Congress of Micronesia, we remain convinced that to formalize this process would be an empty gesture. There must be some authority involved, or the effort is wasted.

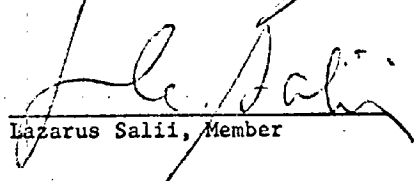
Your Committee respectfully submits that, after weighing carefully all the alternatives and questions involved, we are satisfied that the creation of the proposed Executive Council will satisfy the worthy goals to be achieved.

Accordingly, your Committee is in complete agreement with the intent and purposes of Senate Joint Resolution No. 26, and recommends that the same be adopted.

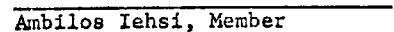
Respectfully submitted,


Olympia T. Borja, Member


Andon Amaraich, Chairman


Lazarus Salii, Member


Petrus Tun, Member


Anbilos Iehsi, Member

Rt J+20/17m

FOURTH CONGRESS, 19 71

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

S. J. R. NO. 26

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Requesting the Secretary of the Interior to consider the formation of an executive council to govern the executive branch of the Trust Territory Government as suggested in the Report of the Political Status Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia.

1 WHEREAS, at the present time the executive branch of the Trust
2 Territory Government is headed by a High Commissioner who is not chosen,
3 or approved by the people of Micronesia; and

4 WHEREAS, the imposition of an appointed executive to control the
5 affairs of any people is contrary to and in violation of the principles
6 of democracy; and

7 WHEREAS, there is at the present time a widening gap between the
8 Administration and the Congress of Micronesia because the Administration
9 has no base for support in the Congress of Micronesia; and

10 WHEREAS, an appointed chief executive must be responsible to and
11 representative of the person to whom he owes his appointment, while an
12 elected chief executive must be responsible to and representative of the
13 people to whom he owes his election; and

14 WHEREAS, the High Commissioner is presently responsible to and
15 representative of the United States Government and not the people of
16 Micronesia; and

17 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the people and leaders of Micronesia
18 if there were a transition period between the present system of government
19 in Micronesia and the system of government which Micronesians will eventually
20 choose; and

21 WHEREAS, Micronesians must have training and experience in the
22 highest levels of government so that they can be qualified to assume
23 complete self-government; and

24 WHEREAS, under Article 76 (b) of the United Nations Charter, as
25 embodied in Article 6 (1) of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Former

Rt J+GO/wm

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18 if there were a transition period between the present system of government
19 in Micronesia and the system of government which Micronesians will eventually
20 choose; and

21 WHEREAS, Micronesians must have training and experience in the
22 highest levels of government so that they can be qualified to assume
23 complete self-government; and

24 WHEREAS, under Article 76 (b) of the United Nations Charter, as
25 embodied in Article 6 (1) of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Former

1 Japanese Mandated Islands the United States voluntarily agreed to "promote
2 the development of the inhabitants of the trust territory toward self-
3 government ... and the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned";
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the Political Status Delegation of the Congress of Micronesia
6 in its report of July, 1970, stated at page 50: "1. Executive Council.
7 At the territorial level, the most important change the Congress should
8 consider is the creation of an Executive Council. The Executive Council
9 would consist of the High Commissioner (as Chairman or President),
10 members of the Congress of Micronesia, and senior officers of the Administra-
11 tion. Preferably, the representatives of the Congress of Micronesia
12 would compose at least fifty percent of the voting membership. The
13 function of the Executive Council would be to exercise final decision-
14 making power in the executive branch of the Trust Territory Government.

15 Insofar as the Council became a forum for the initial formulation
16 of policy, it would enable Micronesian representatives to fill a constructive
17 role in the work of the executive branch. The functions envisioned for the
18 Executive Council could not be fulfilled by a body wholly composed of
19 civil servants. Even if some of these were Micronesians, their obligations
20 as civil servants would prevent them from adequately representing the
21 people of Micronesia;" and

22 WHEREAS, there is no longer time for delay in entering a transitional
23 stage for the eventual change to be made in the government of Micronesia
24 toward self-government; now, therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Fourth Congress of Micronesia,

1 First Regular Session, 1971, the House of Representatives concurring,
2 that the Secretary of the Interior is hereby requested to consider the
3 formation of an executive council to govern the executive branch of the
4 Trust Territory Government as suggested in the Report of the Political
5 Status Delegation of the Congress of Micronesia; and

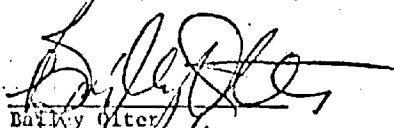
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the High Commissioner is hereby requested
7 to submit a favorable recommendation on this Joint Resolution to the
8 Secretary of the Interior; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Joint Resolution
10 be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior and the President of the
11 United States, the Secretary General and the President of the Trusteeship
12 Council of the United Nations, and the High Commissioner.

13
14 Date:

Feb 2/71

Introduced by:


Bailey Witer
