

(Second original mailed addressed to Cong. Silk, Maiuro)

"Dear Congressman Silk and Senator Salif:"

Old Executive Office Bldg.  
Room 365  
Washington, D.C. 20506

August 12, 1971

Dear Senator Salif and Congressman Silk:

During our meeting on the afternoon of June 11, 1971, in San Francisco, we agreed that it would be useful, following my return from Micronesia, if I were to write you about our forthcoming talks, identifying those questions and issues which we would like to raise for discussion.

I wish to state initially that the U.S. Government has carefully and thoroughly reviewed its policy as well as the Micronesian position set forth in the May 1970 talks and in the subsequent Report of the Political Status Delegation of July 1970. Based on the results of this reexamination, the U.S. Government is prepared to resume the status talks and believes that a mutually acceptable status settlement can be reached.

I should also like to make clear that we shall not be presenting as the basis for the October talks any written American plan, nor will we be seeking to press any comprehensive proposal. This decision derives from the ideas expressed by the Micronesian delegation to the May 1970 talks, that Micronesia's future should not be decided through any single U.S. proposal, but should be the product of discussion also of the will, and the thought of the Micronesian people as well.

Therefore, without retreading unnecessarily the ground already covered at previous talks, I hope that we will follow procedural recommendation proposed by your delegation at the May 1970 talks, which we subsequently discussed and agreed to in April and June of this year, namely, to engage first in a broad discussion of the key issues which we both wished to raise.

With respect to the topics to be considered, I hope that we can frankly and informally review all major issues with a view to identifying those areas upon which we then should concentrate. For example, we would welcome a free exchange of views on questions such as:

- Our respective as well as our common interests, including foreign relations and defense.
- Land questions.
- Future fiscal requirements and sources of funds to meet governmental needs.

*1 copy to Hon. Salif*

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- The desired future applicability and availability of U.S. institutions and services.
- Economic development and related questions.
- Procedures related to a change in status.

We would also welcome your thoughts on how the future political status should reflect the will of the Micronesian people and exchanges on other topics suggested in your Status Delegation Report including the Four Principles, and topics not previously raised but which you would like to discuss in October.

I would hope that we could avoid rigid structuring of our talks, but rather seek to maintain an open and free dialogue, permitting us to explore and resolve those issues which are of central importance.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Franklin Hayden Williams  
The President's Personal Representative  
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

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