

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
Saipan, Mariana Islands, 50

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August 17, 1971

Luzarus Salii, Chairman
Ekapap Silk, Co-chairman

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Andon Amaraich
Bailey Olter
Edward DLG. Pangelinan
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Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams
The Asia Foundation
P. O. Box 3223
San Francisco, California 94119

Dear Ambassador Williams:

During our discussion in your Asia Foundation office on June 11, 1971, Co-Chairman Silk and I asked that you provide our Joint Committee with a list of the issues and questions you may wish to discuss during the forthcoming round of negotiation. We also asked that you include in your note a statement of the position of the United States with respect to the Four Principles of the Congress of Micronesia on Free Association.

I take it that your letter of August 12, 1971, which lists six broad categories of questions constitutes your note to us. I wish to acknowledge receipt of the letter and the list of topics. I wish also to note your failure to state the position of your government with respect to the Four Principles.

You asked Congressman Silk and I to give you a note stating what the Joint Committee intends to include for discussion during the next round of talks. Accordingly, I am now providing you with a list of questions which our Joint Committee hopes to have you give the answers to when we meet to resume the negotiations:

1. What is the position of the United States with respect to the principle that sovereignty in Micronesia resides in the people of Micronesia and their duly constituted government?
2. What is the position of the United States with respect to the principle that the people of Micronesia possess the right of self-determination?
3. What is the position of the United States with respect to the principle that the people of Micronesia have the right to adopt their own constitution?

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What is the position of the United States with respect to the principle that free association between Micronesia and the United States shall be in the form of a revocable compact?

There are also several related and more concrete issues which we hope to have you give the official position of the United States Government on. Many of these are contained in the Report of the Status Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia.

We note your desire to avoid rigid structuring of the talks. We might also note as a point of interest that this had been the desire of the Congress of Micronesia Status Delegation in May of last year.

Our Joint Committee looks forward to a frank discussion of the issues at stake. We would expect that such a discussion can proceed well after we have been appraised of the position of the United States on the Four Principles.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Lazarus E. Salii
Chairman

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June 25, 1971

Honorable Lazarus Salii, Chairman
Joint Committee on Future Status of Micronesia
2000 Durant Avenue
Berkeley, California 94704

Dear Senator Salii:

I appreciated the opportunity of meeting with you and Congressman Silk on June 11. Our exchange of views on the timing and format of our next round of talks was most useful and I am pleased that we were able to reach agreement on all essential points.

As I stated, I am looking forward to working with you, Congressman Silk and the other members of the Micronesian Joint Committee. I can appreciate fully your desire to move the status question forward, a sentiment which is also shared by my Government.

For our records, I would like to summarize the understandings which were reached:

1. The next round of talks will be held in late August or early September 1971, with the final dates to be settled by mutual agreement.
2. The site for the next talks will be explored by the U. S. in one of the Hawaiian Islands and consultations will be held prior to the final decision.
3. The format for the talks will follow the agreement which was reached in April 1971 with the further understanding that

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June 25, 1971

an exchange of notes will take place in advance of the talks, indicating these issues and questions to be discussed in order to give both delegations time to prepare for the exchange.

4. The talks will be considered to be private and of a confidential nature.

I wish to assure you and the members of the Joint Committee that the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government has given serious consideration to your views and is in the process of reexamining its own position. It is my hope that the next round of talks will be a continuation and extension of the discussions held last May and not a new beginning. In our note which you may expect around August 1 this point will be reaffirmed.

I am looking forward to my visit to Micronesia and to meeting members of the Joint Committee. I appreciate the efforts that you and Congressman Silk have made to make such a meeting possible.

In closing, may I say again that I enjoyed seeing you and Congressman Silk again and meeting for the first time Congressman Harco.

With my regards, I remain.

Sincerely yours,

Haydn Williams
Personal Representative
of the President

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