



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

February 3, 1972

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FILE COPY
Surname:

<i>WLC 2/8/72</i>

Mr. Morris H. Rubin, Editor
The Progressive Magazine
408 West Gorham
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mr. Rubin.

We have read with interest the article on Micronesia in the December 1971 issue of your magazine. We note, however, that there is no mention of the most recent discussions on Micronesia's future political status, held last October on the island of Maui in Hawaii, between a delegation from the Congress of Micronesia and a U.S. Executive Branch delegation which I headed. Your readers may, therefore, be interested in a brief summary of the current situation.

Under the new U.S. proposals, Micronesia and the United States would be associated by the terms of a compact, which would govern the relationship. Under the terms of the compact, Micronesians would adopt and amend a constitution of their own devising. Micronesians would run their own domestic affairs, develop their economy in accordance with local desires, and have full control over all land in the area, subject only to leases and options to lease prenegotiated with the U.S. in limited areas of three of Micronesia's six districts -- Palau, the Marshalls, and the Marianas. The U.S. would acquire any additional land only by mutually agreed procedures, and not by eminent domain. Foreign affairs and defense would be the responsibility of the United States, which would consult with Micronesian leaders on all such matters of local importance.

The foregoing are all areas of preliminary agreement with the Micronesians, and represent significant steps by the United States in response to Micronesian desires. The major issue on which agreement has not yet been reached is that of mutual, versus unilateral, termination. The Micronesians have taken the position that either party should be able to unilaterally terminate the association at any time, an ability which we believe would undermine the stability of not only the U.S.--Micronesian association, but, perhaps more important, the internal union of the widely-spread peoples of Micronesia themselves.

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We are hopeful that this important issue, as well as other less critical ones, can be resolved in a satisfactory manner at the next meeting of the delegations, which is expected to take place in April in Micronesia.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur W. Hummel, Jr.
Director
Office for Micronesian
Status Negotiation

Whittington/jm
DASTA/w-Encls.



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JAN 28 1972

Memorandum


To: Director, Office of Status Negotiations

From: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Territorial Affairs

Subject: Response to article on Micronesian Status in December 1971 issue of "Progressive Magazine"

We have been made aware of the attached article on Micronesian future political status in a recent issue of "Progressive Magazine." While the article is generally even-handed, it makes no reference to the most recent talks at Hana, but rather takes a negative stand on the earlier U.S. Commonwealth proposal.

Accordingly, we would suggest updating the material in the article by means of a letter to the editor, to be signed by either Ambassador Williams or yourself. We have prepared a suggested draft letter for this purpose.


Stanley S. Carpenter

Enclosures

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